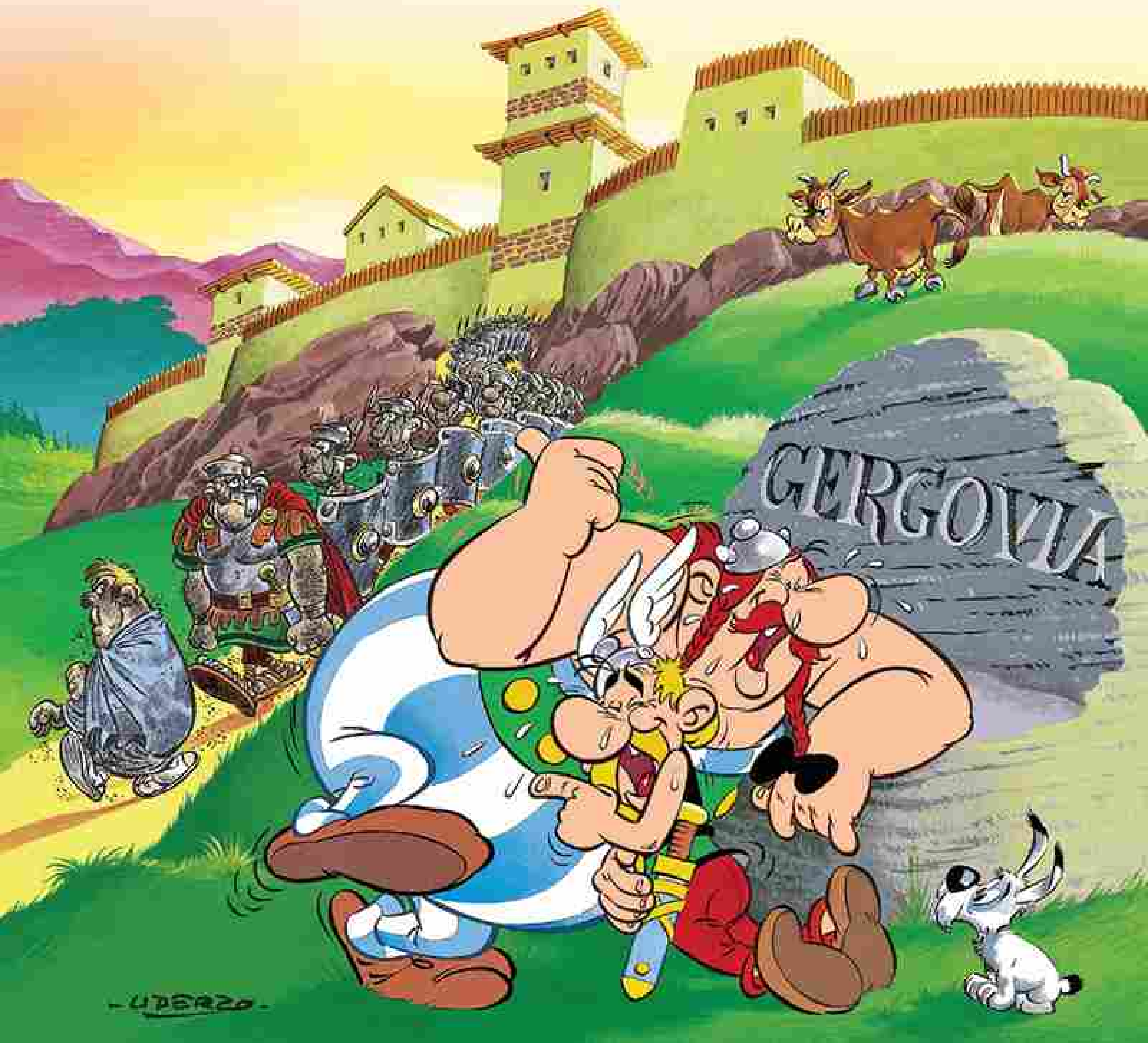


R. GOSCINNY **Asterix** A. UDERZO
Asterix and the
**CHIEFTAIN'S
SHIELD**

Written by René GOSCINNY

Illustrated by Albert UDERZO



GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

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AN ORION CHILDREN'S EBOOK

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THE YEAR IS 50 BC. GAUL IS ENTIRELY OCCUPIED BY THE ROMANS. WELL, NOT ENTIRELY ... ONE SMALL VILLAGE OF INDOMITABLE GAULS STILL HOLDS OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. AND LIFE IS NOT EASY FOR THE ROMAN LEGIONARIES WHO GARRISON THE FORTIFIED CAMPS OF TOTORUM, AQUARIUM, LAUDANUM AND COMPENDIUM ...



ASTERIX, THE HERO OF THESE ADVENTURES. A SHREWD, CUNNING LITTLE WARRIOR, ALL PERILOUS MISSIONS ARE IMMEDIATELY ENTRUSTED TO HIM. ASTERIX GETS HIS SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH FROM THE MAGIC POTION BREWED BY THE DRUID GETAFIX . . .



OBELIX, ASTERIX'S INSEPARABLE FRIEND. A MENHIR DELIVERY MAN BY TRADE, ADDICTED TO WILD BOAR. OBELIX IS ALWAYS READY TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO OFF ON A NEW ADVENTURE WITH ASTERIX - SO LONG AS THERE'S WILD BOAR TO EAT, AND PLENTY OF FIGHTING. HIS CONSTANT COMPANION IS DOGMATIX, THE ONLY KNOWN CANINE ECOLOGIST, WHO HOWLS WITH DESPAIR WHEN A TREE IS CUT DOWN.



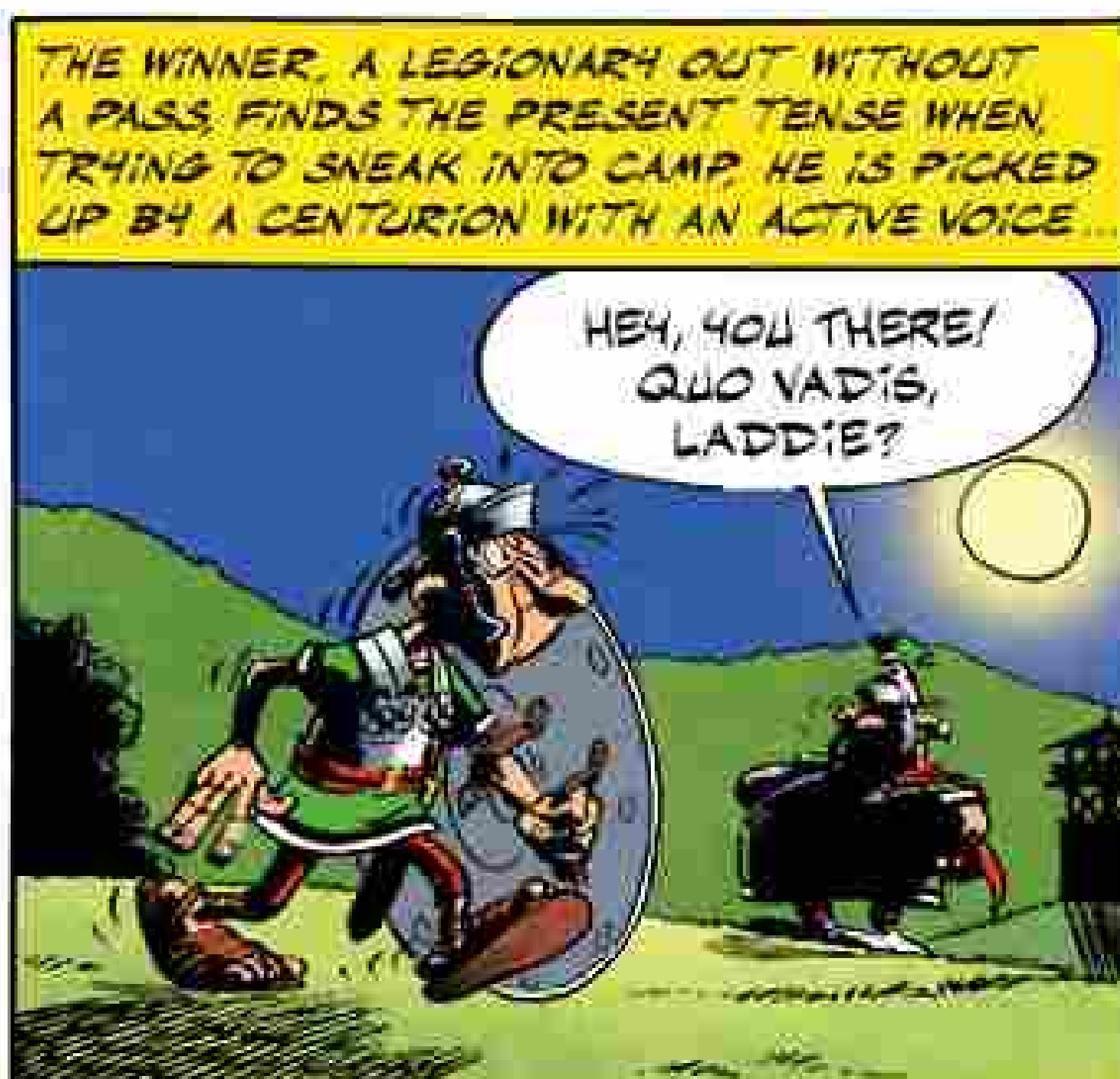
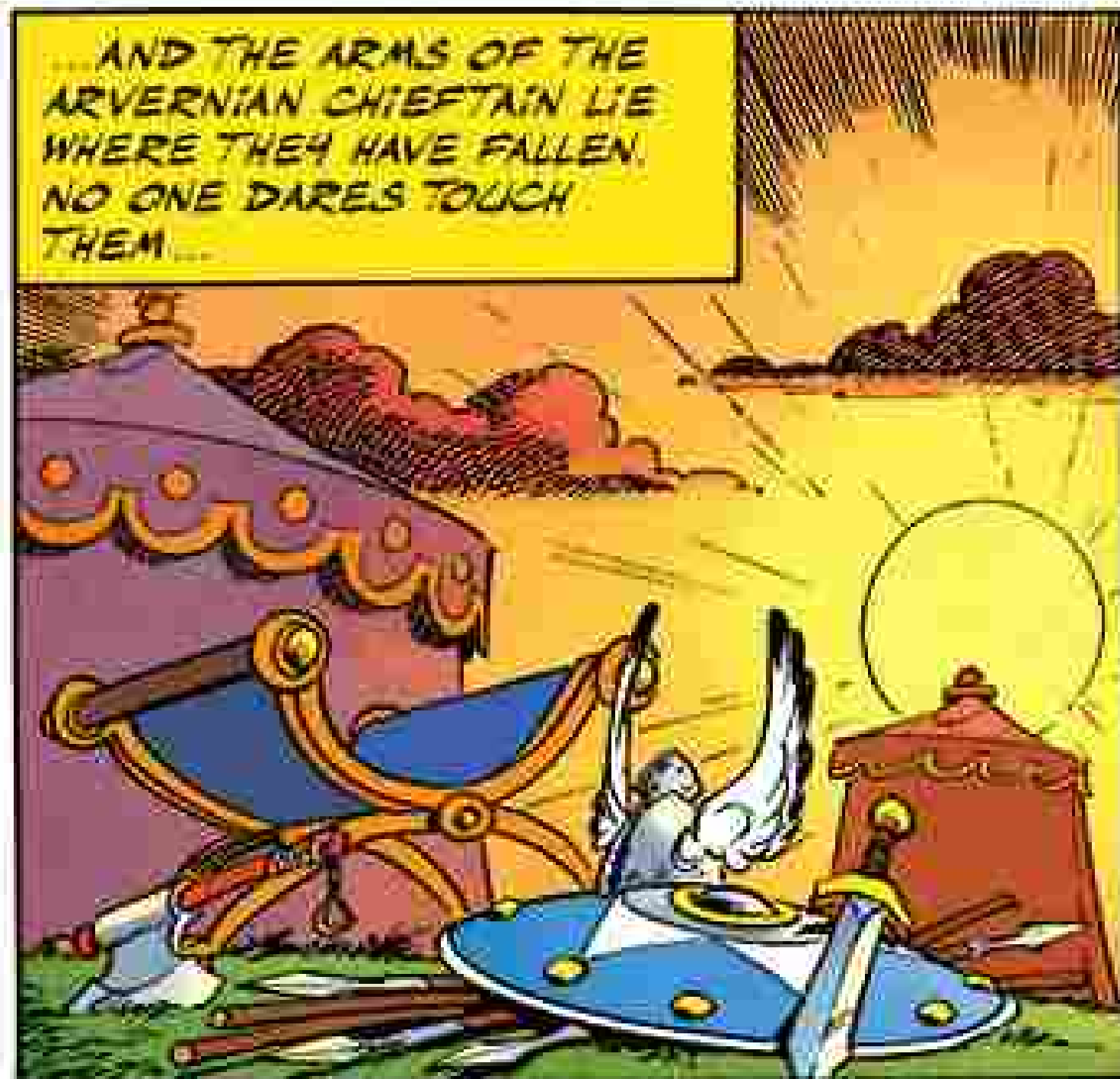
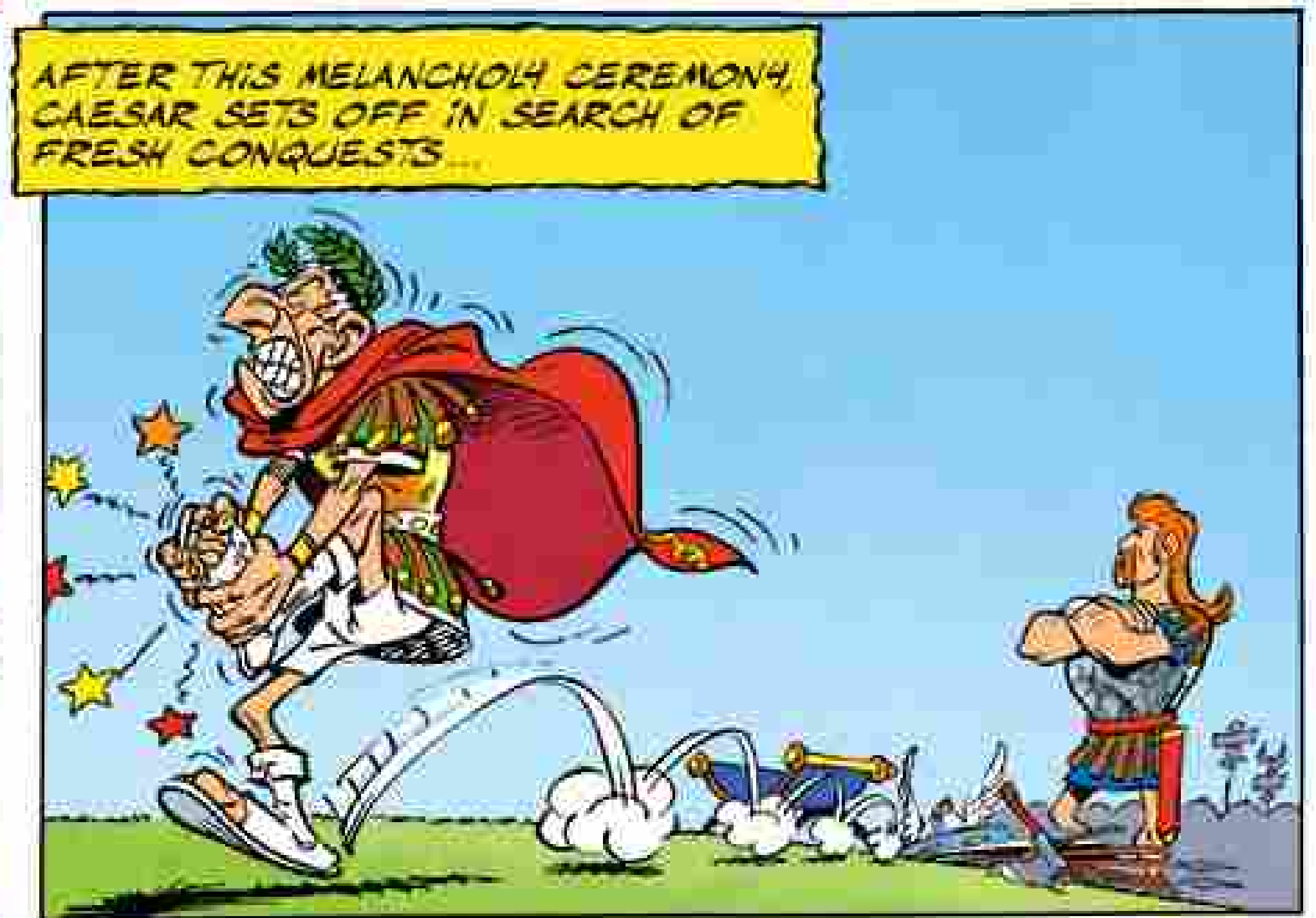
GETAFIX, THE VENERABLE VILLAGE DRUID, GATHERS MISTLETOE AND BREWS MAGIC POTIONS. HIS SPECIALITY IS THE POTION WHICH GIVES THE DRINKER SUPERHUMAN STRENGTH. BUT GETAFIX ALSO HAS OTHER RECIPES UP HIS SLEEVE . . .



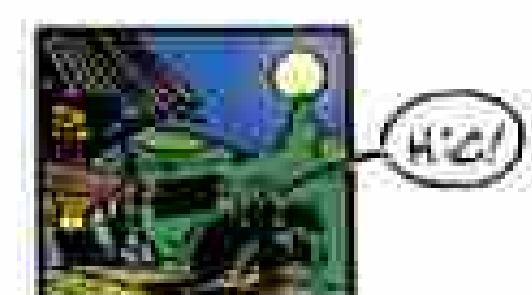
CACOFONIX, THE BARD. OPINION IS DIVIDED AS TO HIS MUSICAL GIFTS. CACOFONIX THINKS HE'S A GENIUS. EVERYONE ELSE THINKS HE'S UNSPEAKABLE. BUT SO LONG AS HE DOESN'T SPEAK, LET ALONE SING, EVERYBODY LIKES HIM . . .



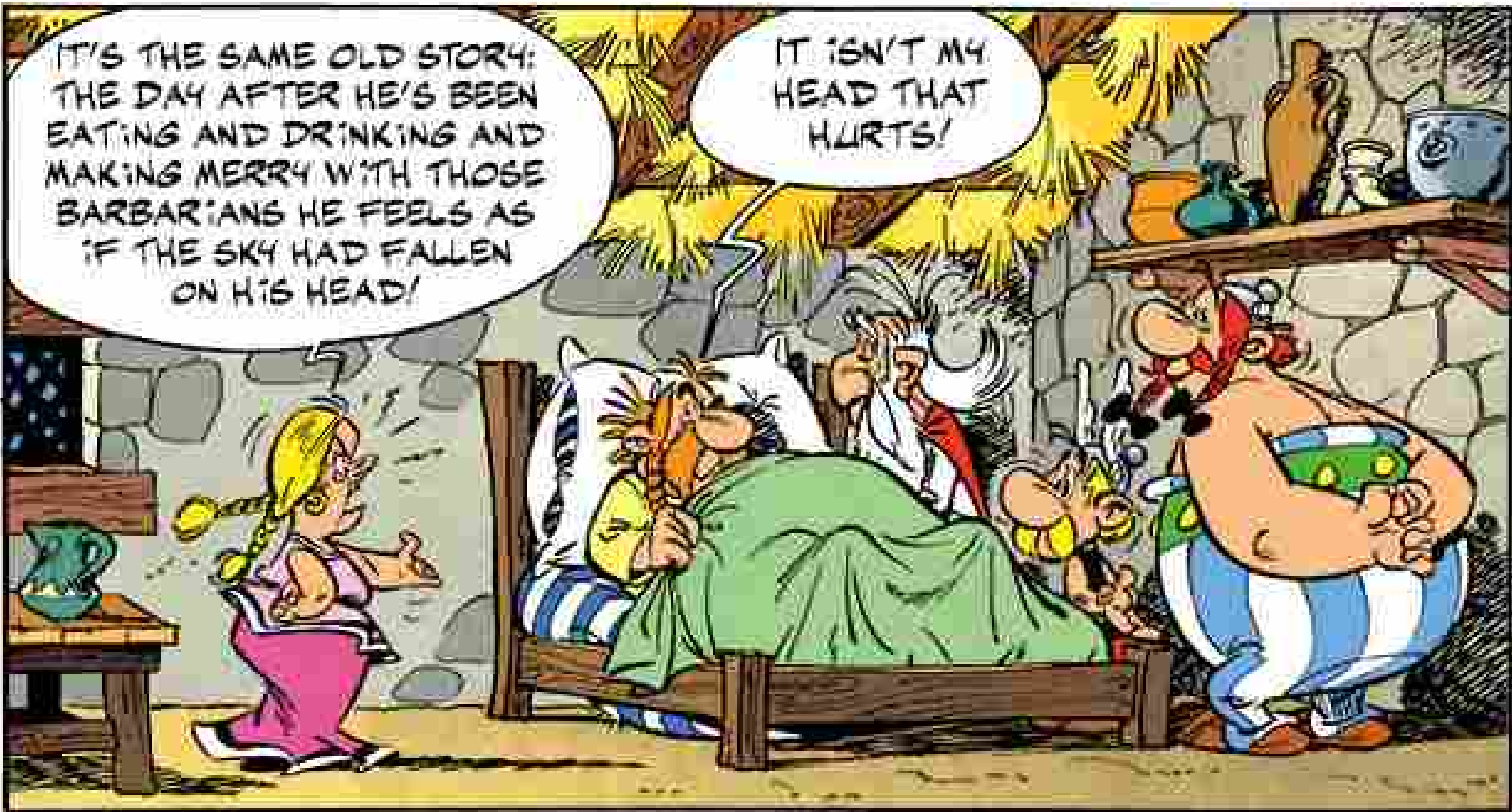
FINALLY, VITALSTATISTIX, THE CHIEF OF THE TRIBE. MAJESTIC, BRAVE AND HOT-TEMPERED, THE OLD WARRIOR IS RESPECTED BY HIS MEN AND FEARED BY HIS ENEMIES. VITALSTATISTIX HIMSELF HAS ONLY ONE FEAR, HE IS AFRAID THE SKY MAY FALL ON HIS HEAD TOMORROW. BUT AS HE ALWAYS SAYS, TOMORROW NEVER COMES.



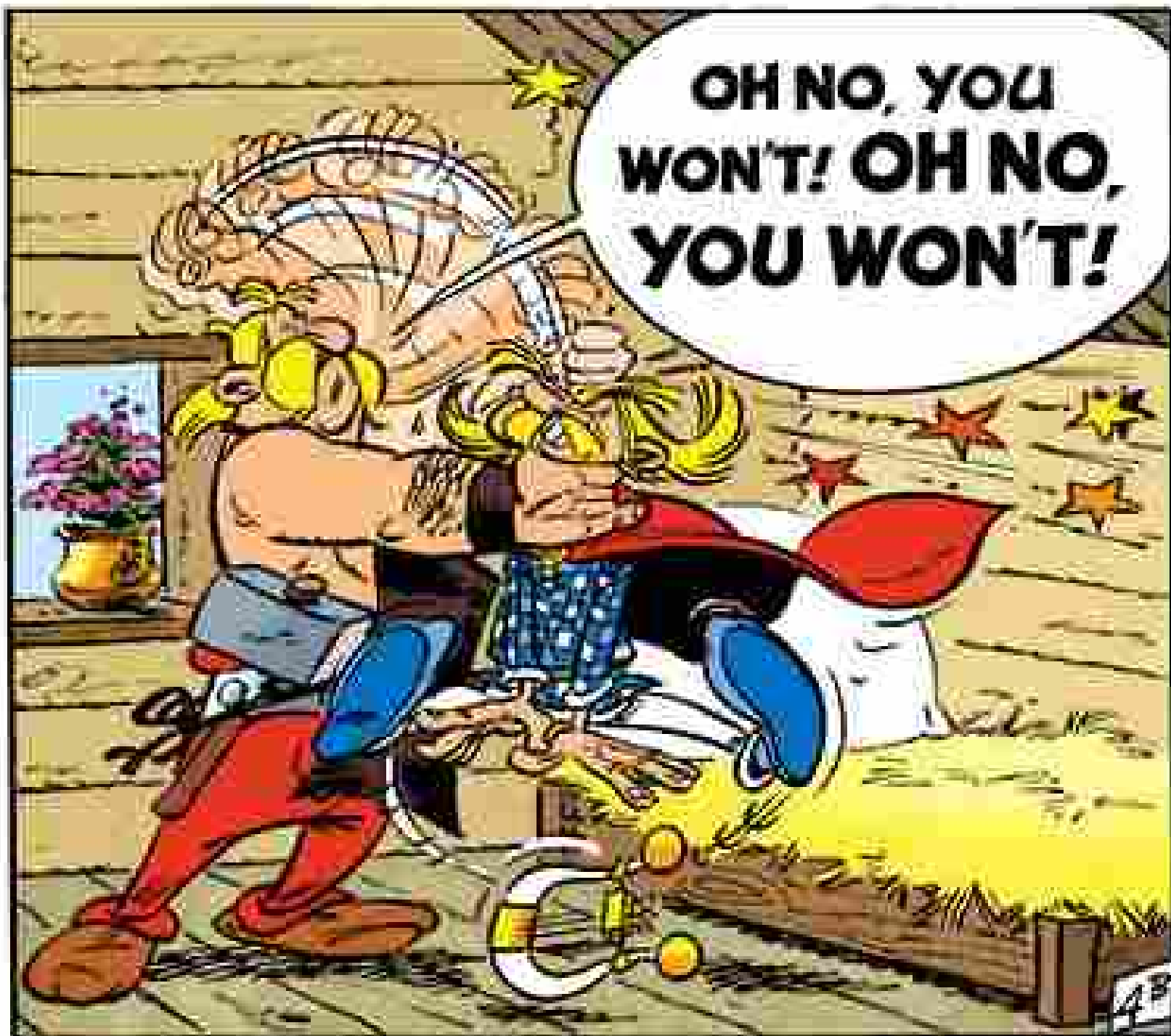
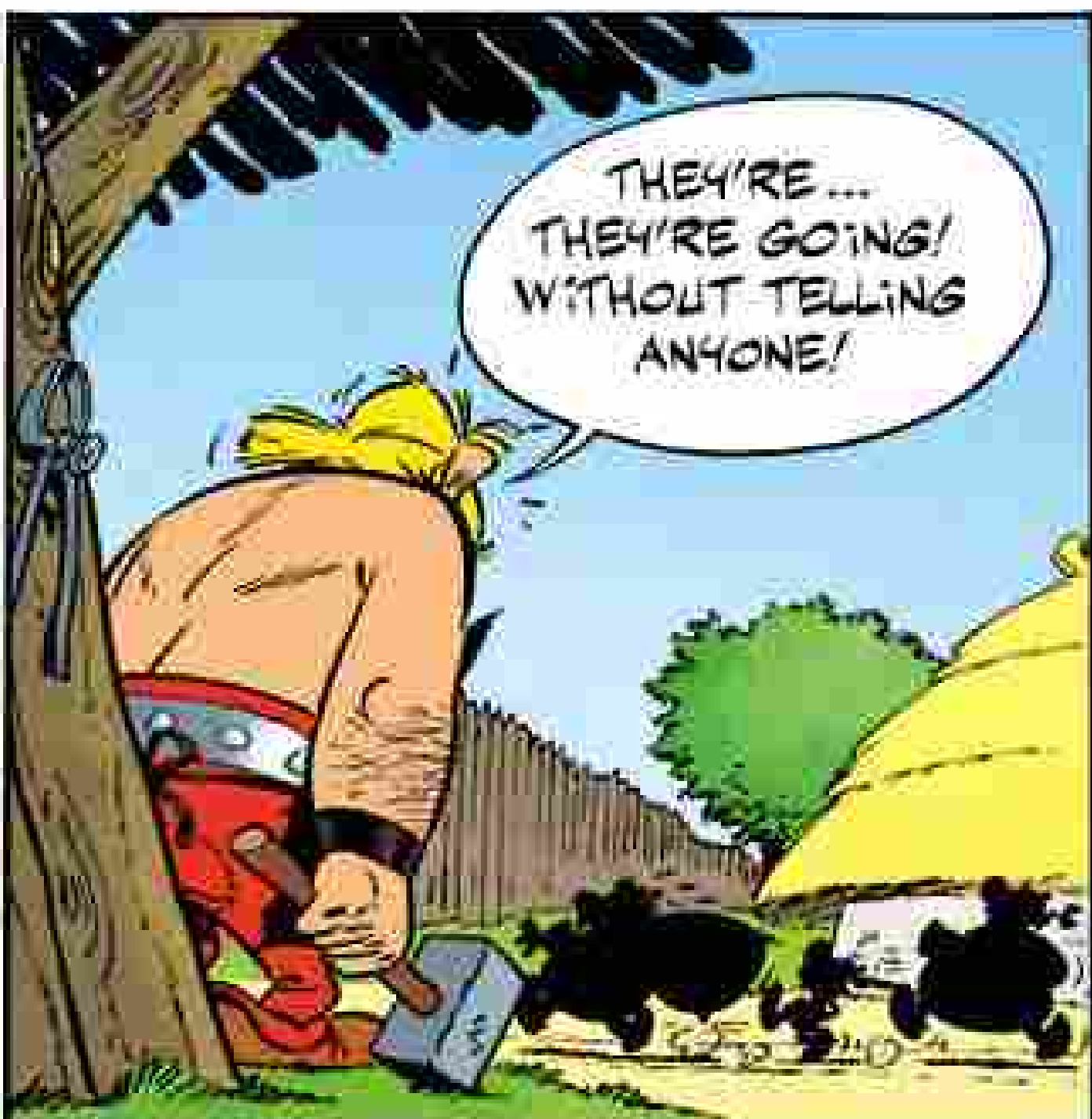
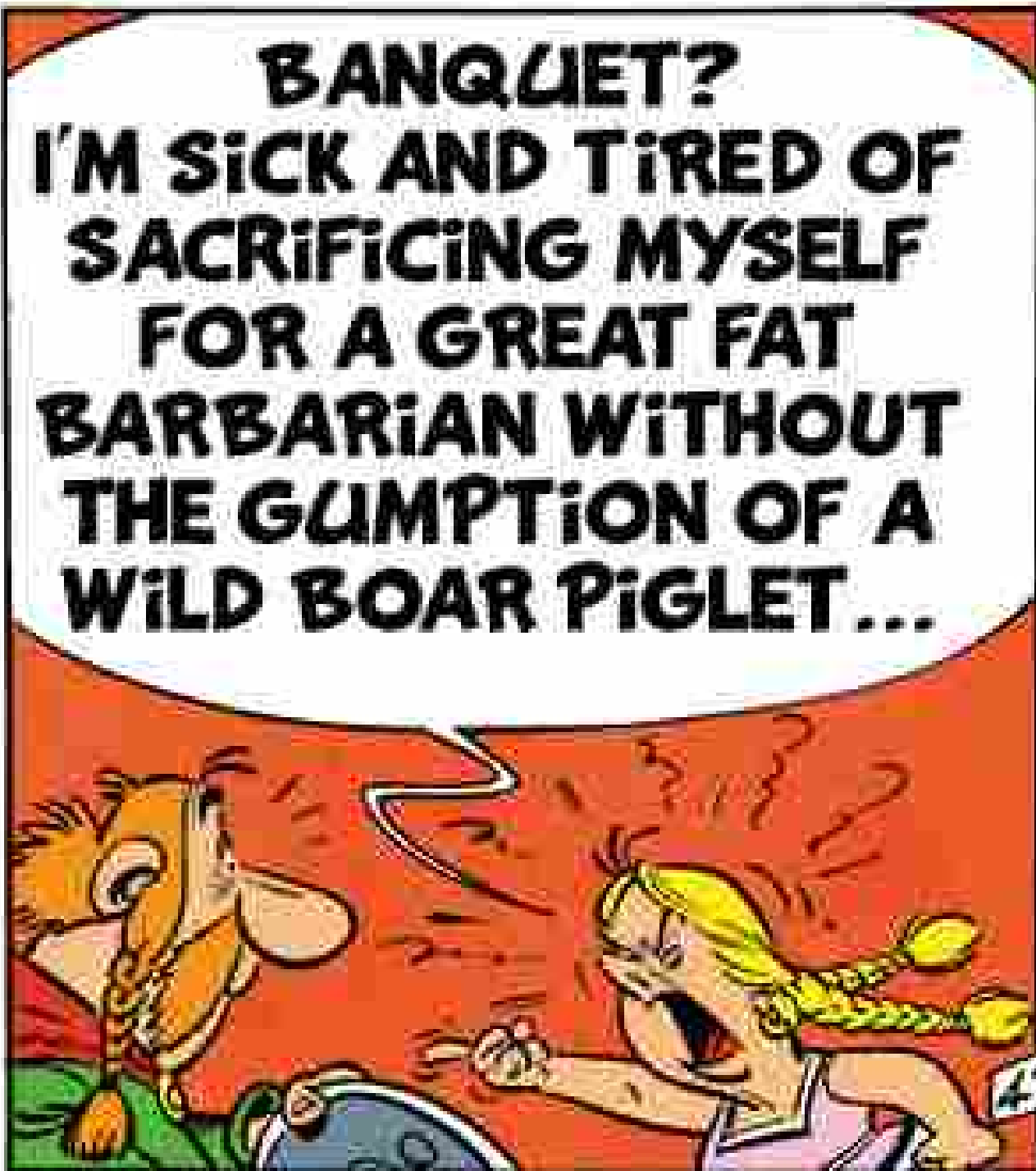
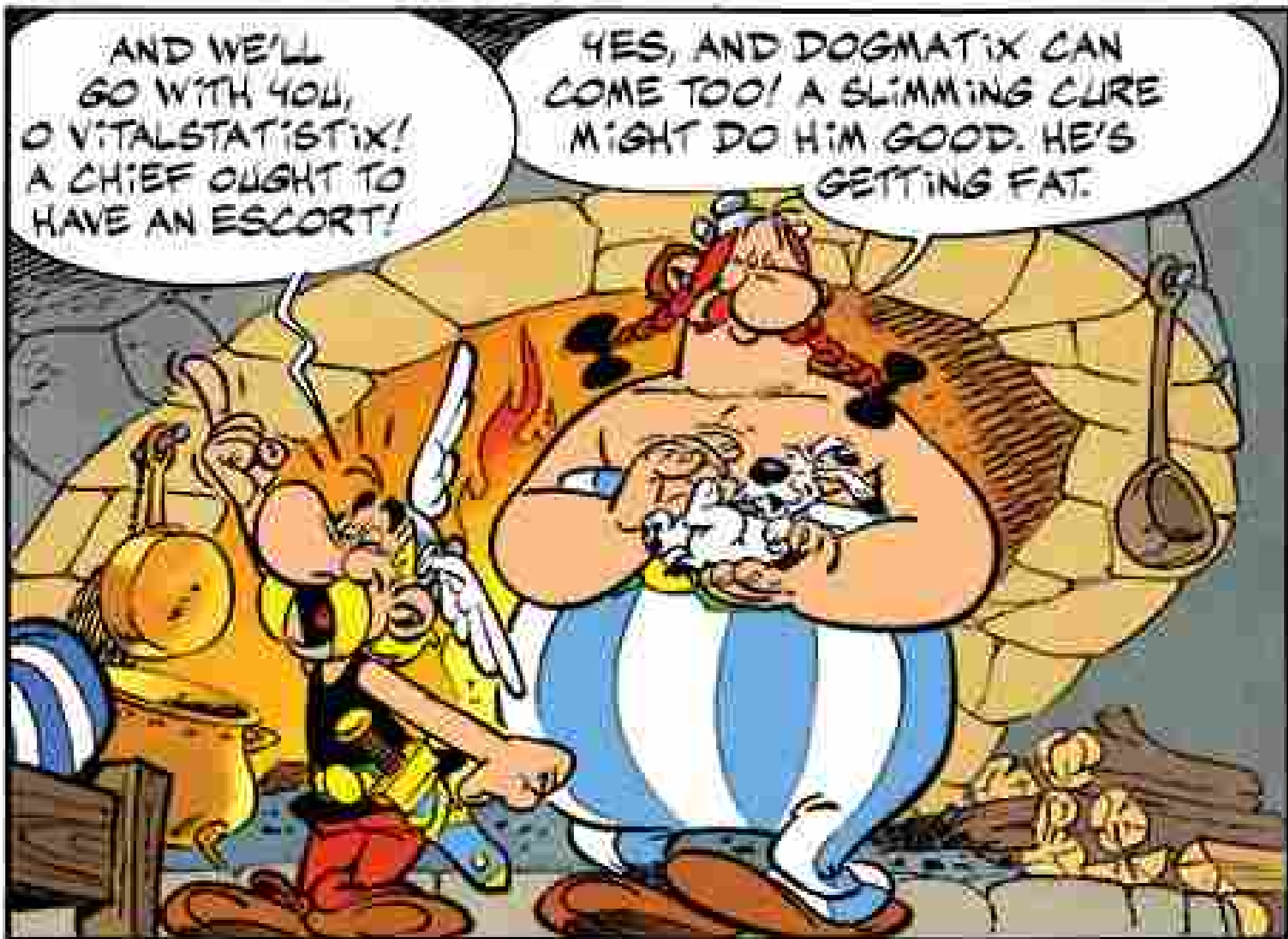
WELL, IF IT GIVES YOU ANY SATISFACTION...

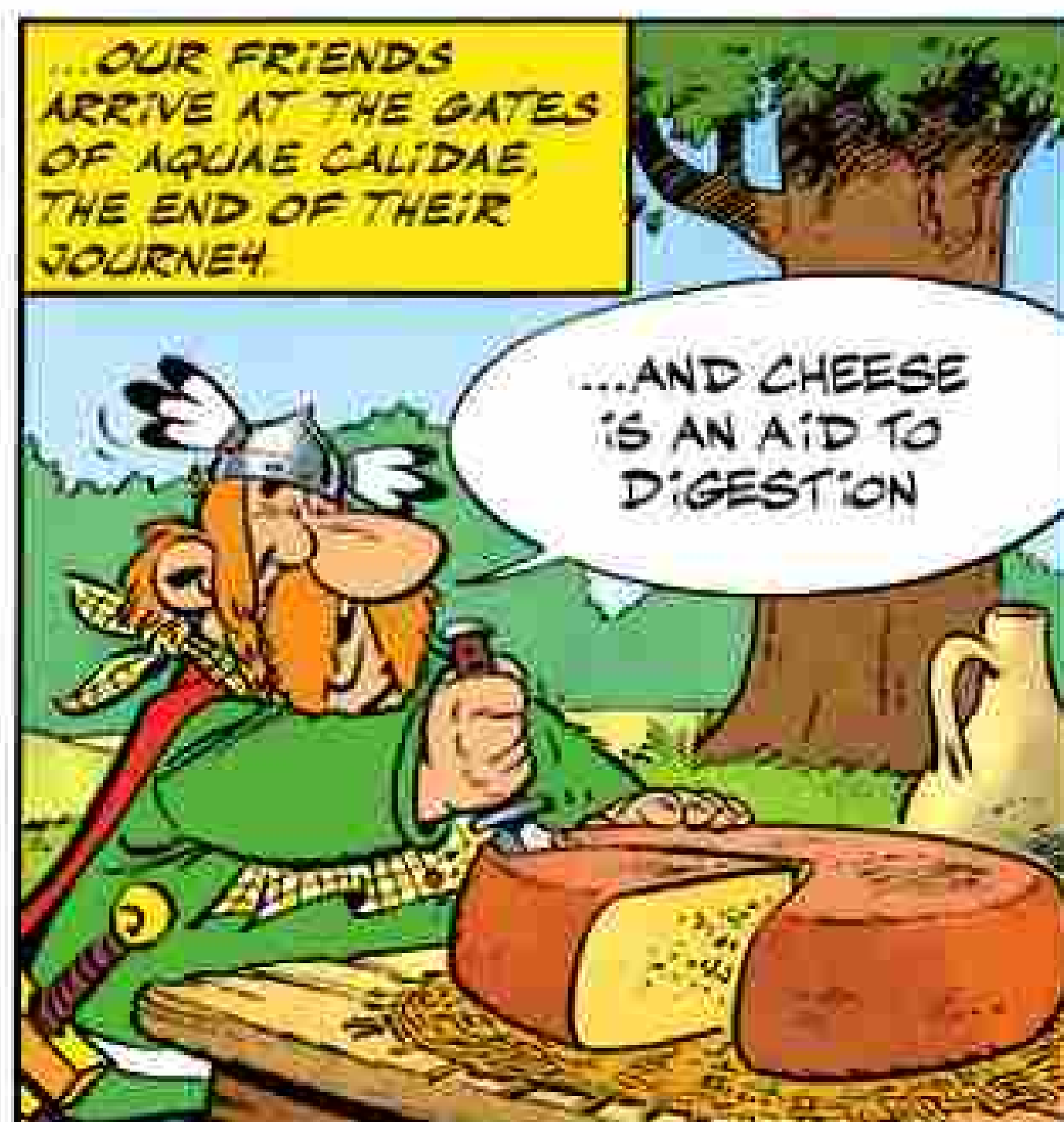
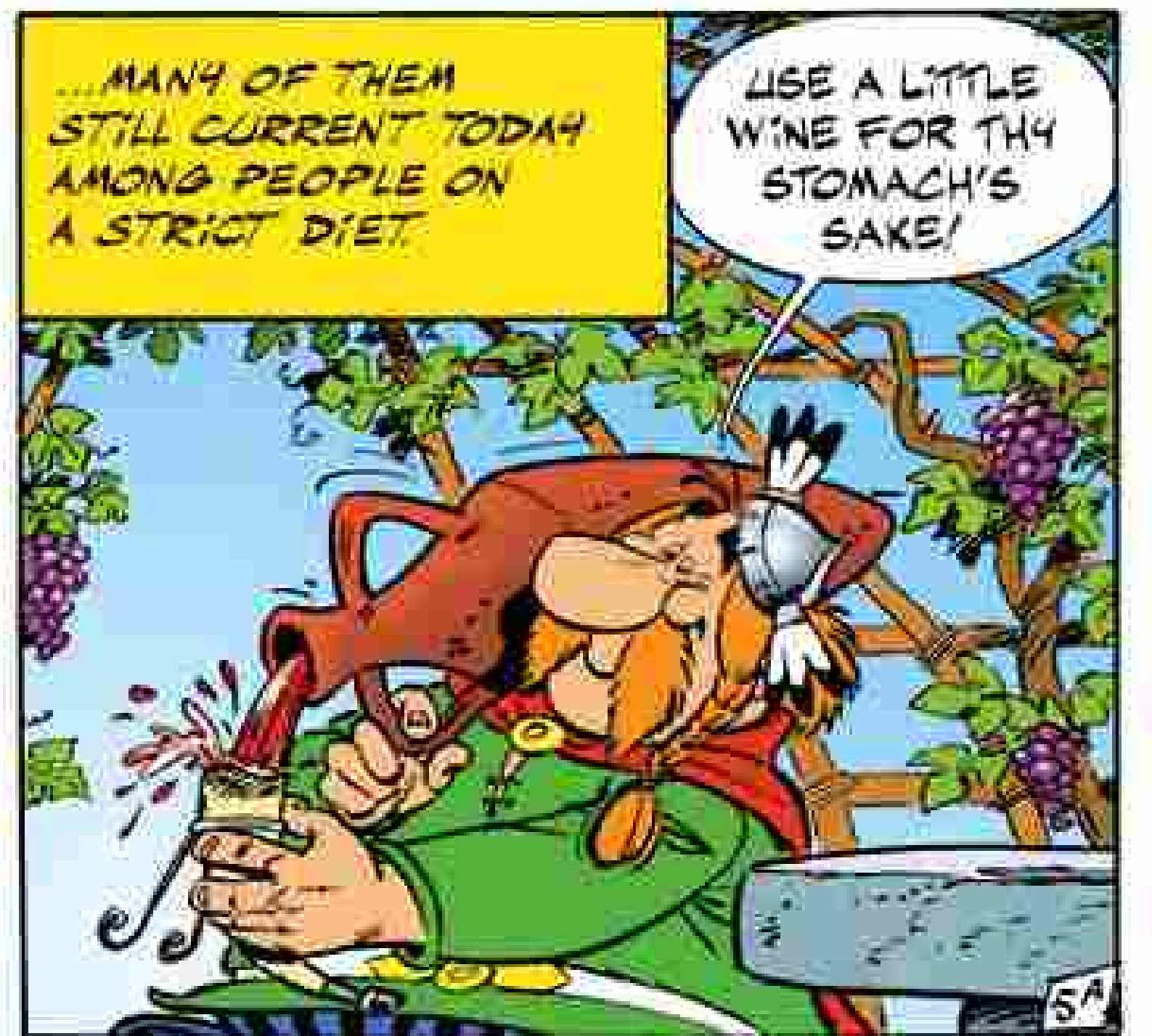
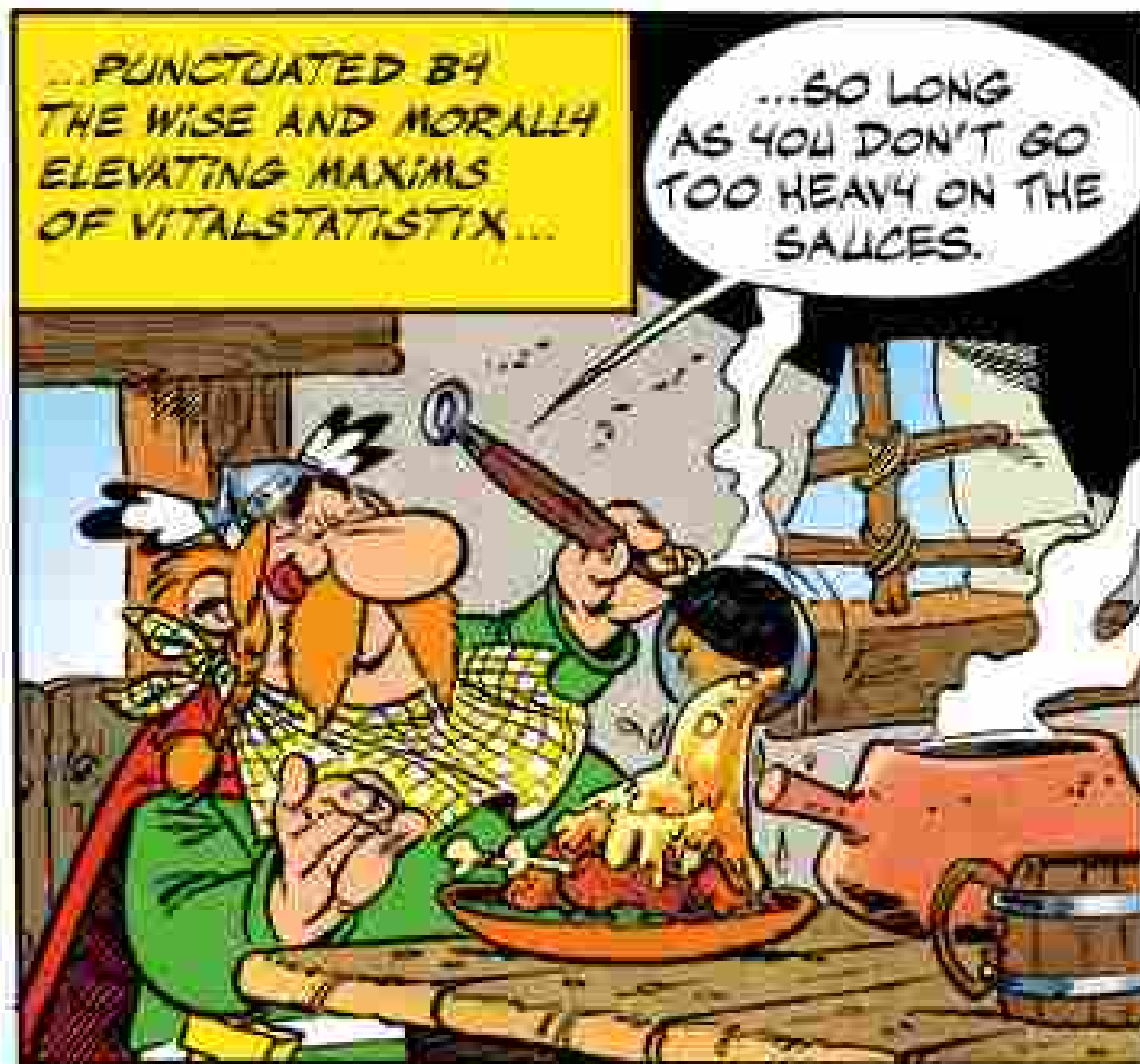


SO ALL GAUL IS OCCUPIED. ALL? NO! ONE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE IS STILL HOLDING OUT AGAINST THE INVADERS. A LITTLE VILLAGE WE KNOW VERY WELL, WHERE MORALE IS HIGH, AND ANY EXCUSE WILL DO TO HOLD A BANQUET WITH LOTS TO EAT AND DRINK. AS IT HAPPENS, THE LAST SUCH BANQUET HAS HAD SOME UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES...

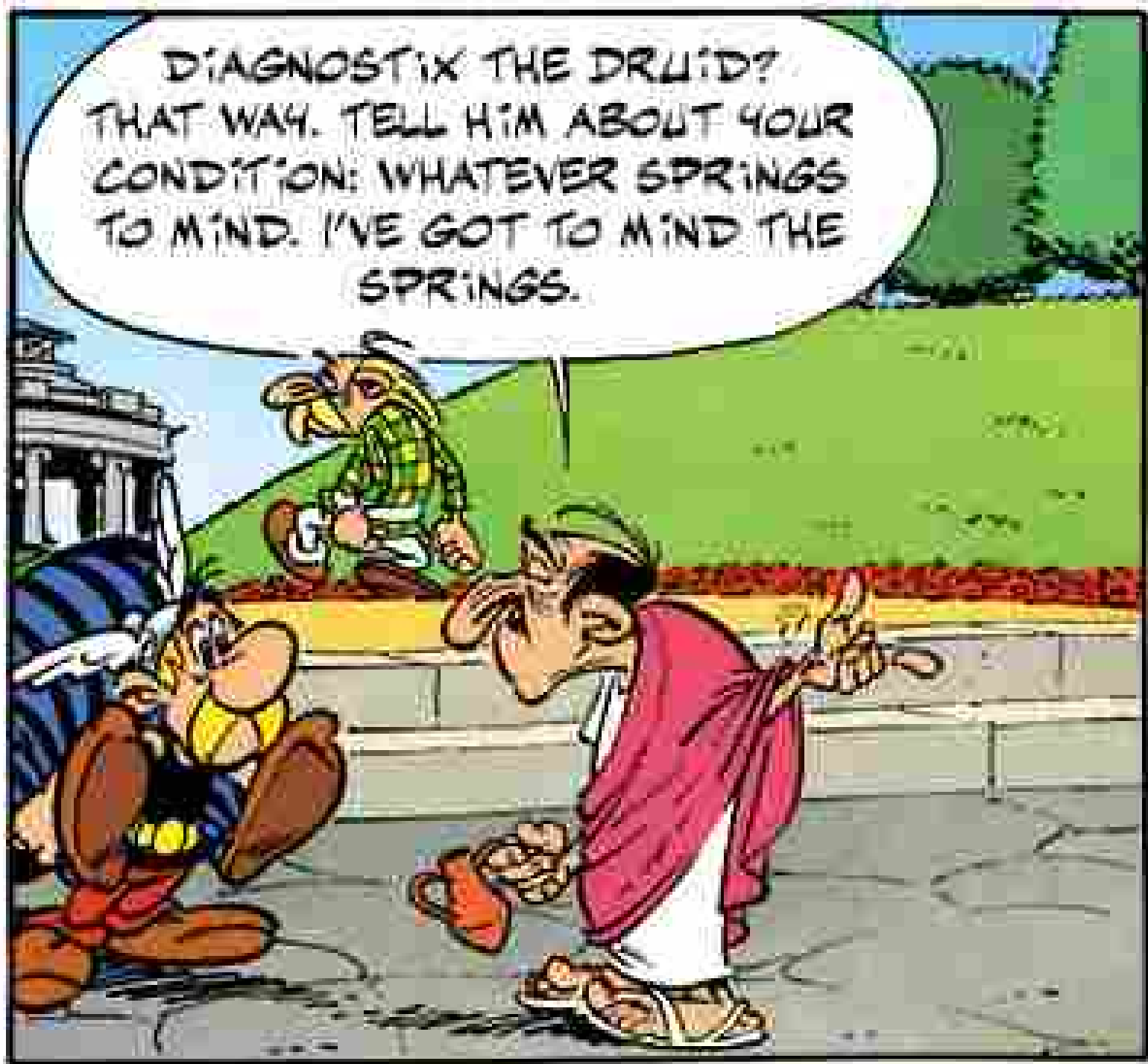




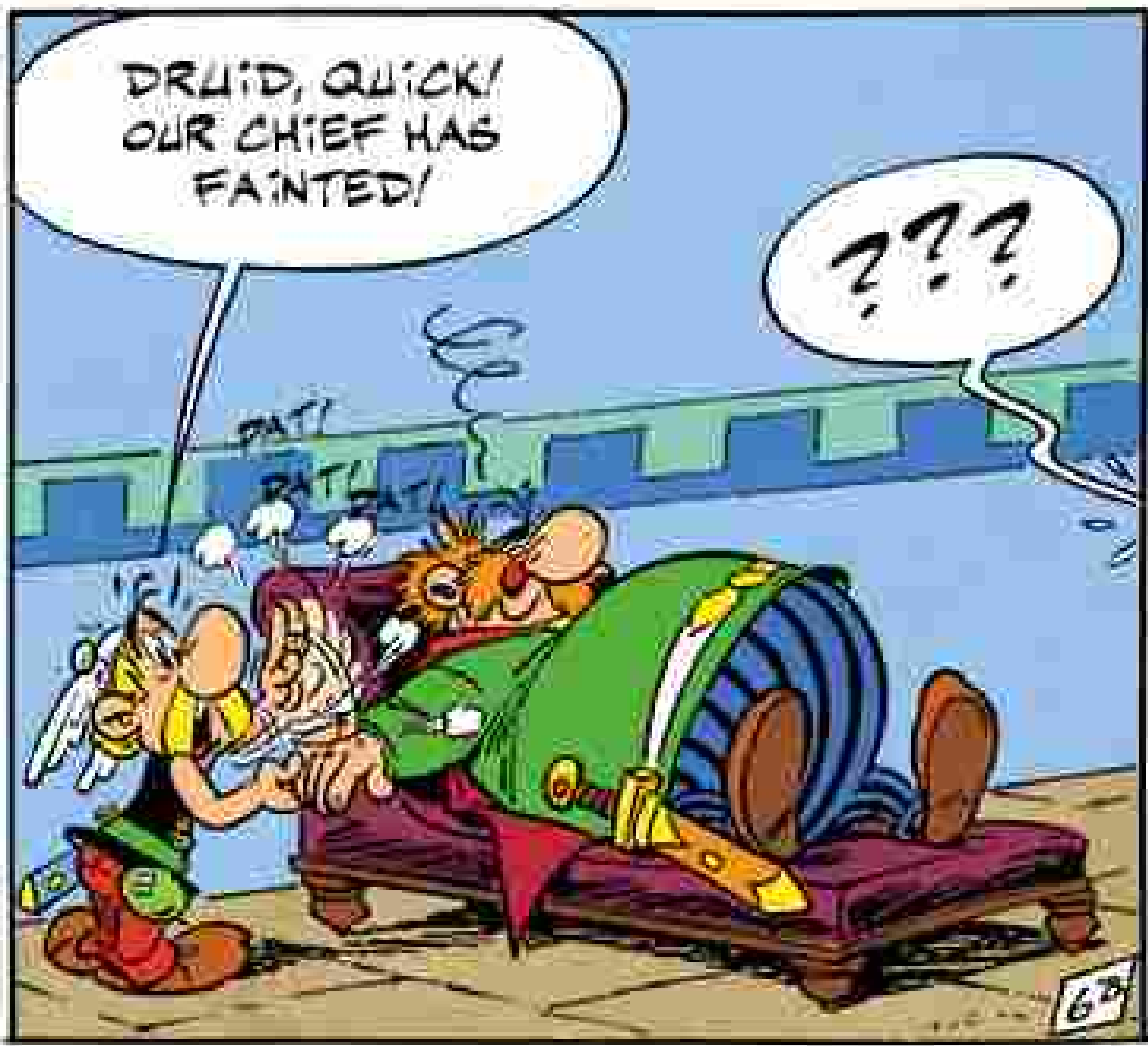
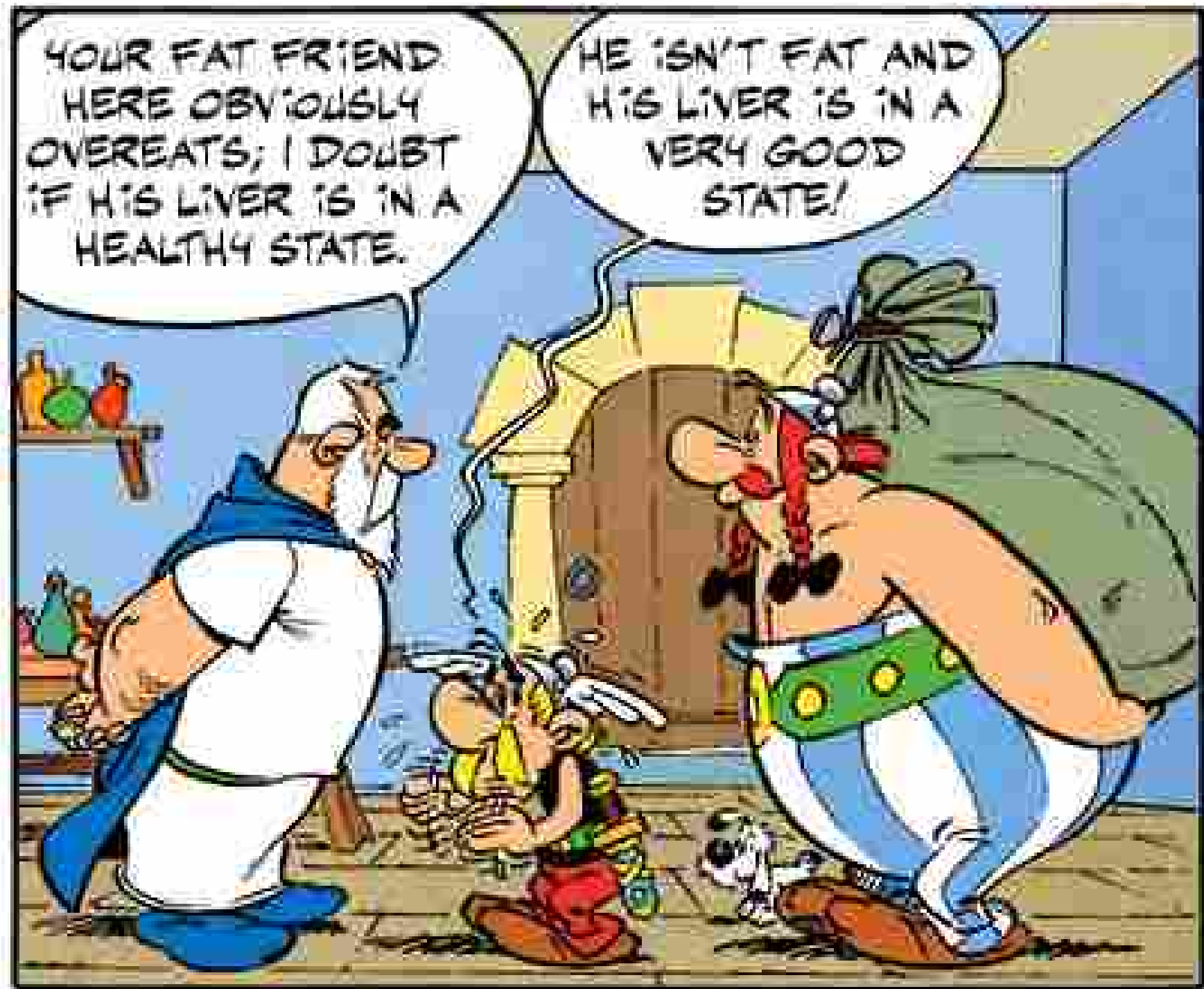




AND SO OUR FRIENDS ENTER THE TOWN OF AQUAE CALIDAE, FAMOUS AMONG BOTH GAULS AND ROMANS FOR ITS HOT SPRINGS AND MINERAL WATERS.



SOON AFTERWARDS



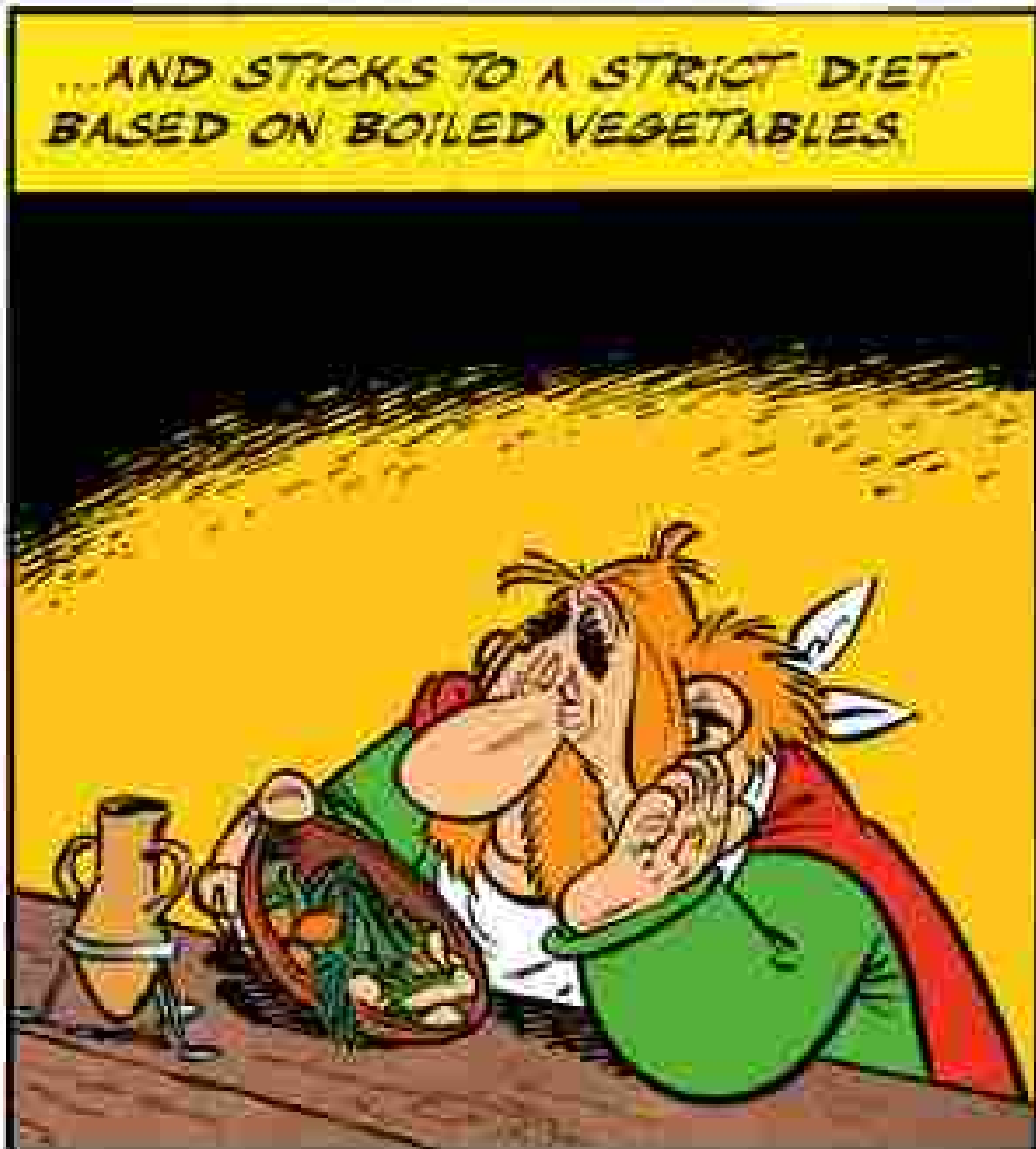
VITALSTATISTIX STARTS HIS TREATMENT. HE DRINKS THE WATER OF THE SPRINGS AT REGULAR INTERVALS...



...USES THE SOPHISTICATED MODERN SHOWER SYSTEM...



...AND STICKS TO A STRICT DIET BASED ON BOILED VEGETABLES.



AND THIS IS WHERE THE TROUBLE BEGINS, SINCE ASTERIX AND OBELIX, AS THE CHIEF'S ESCORT, HAVE PERMISSION TO SHARE HIS TABLE AT MEAL TIMES...



SOME OF THE OTHER PATIENTS BEGIN TO CRACK UP...

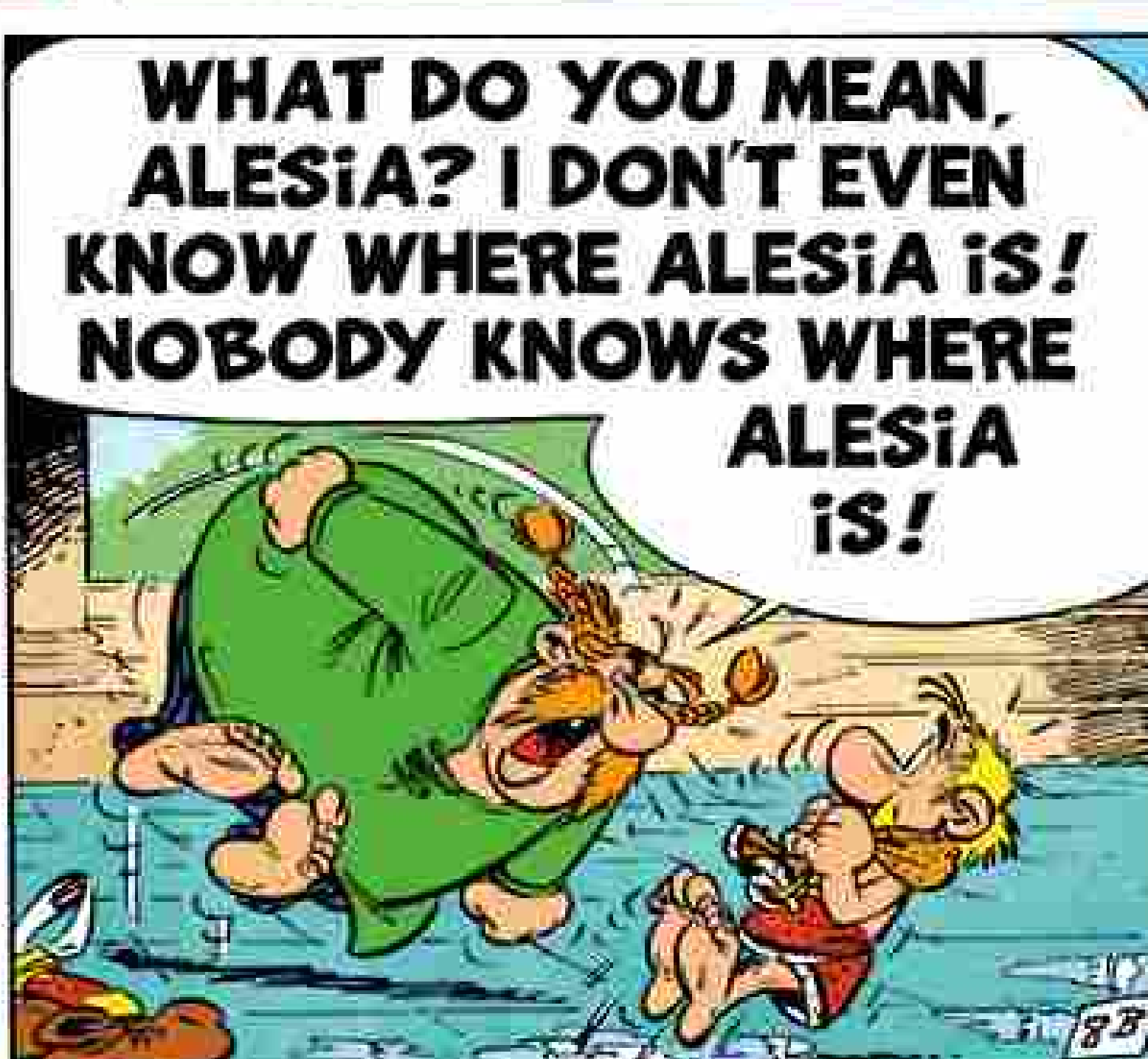
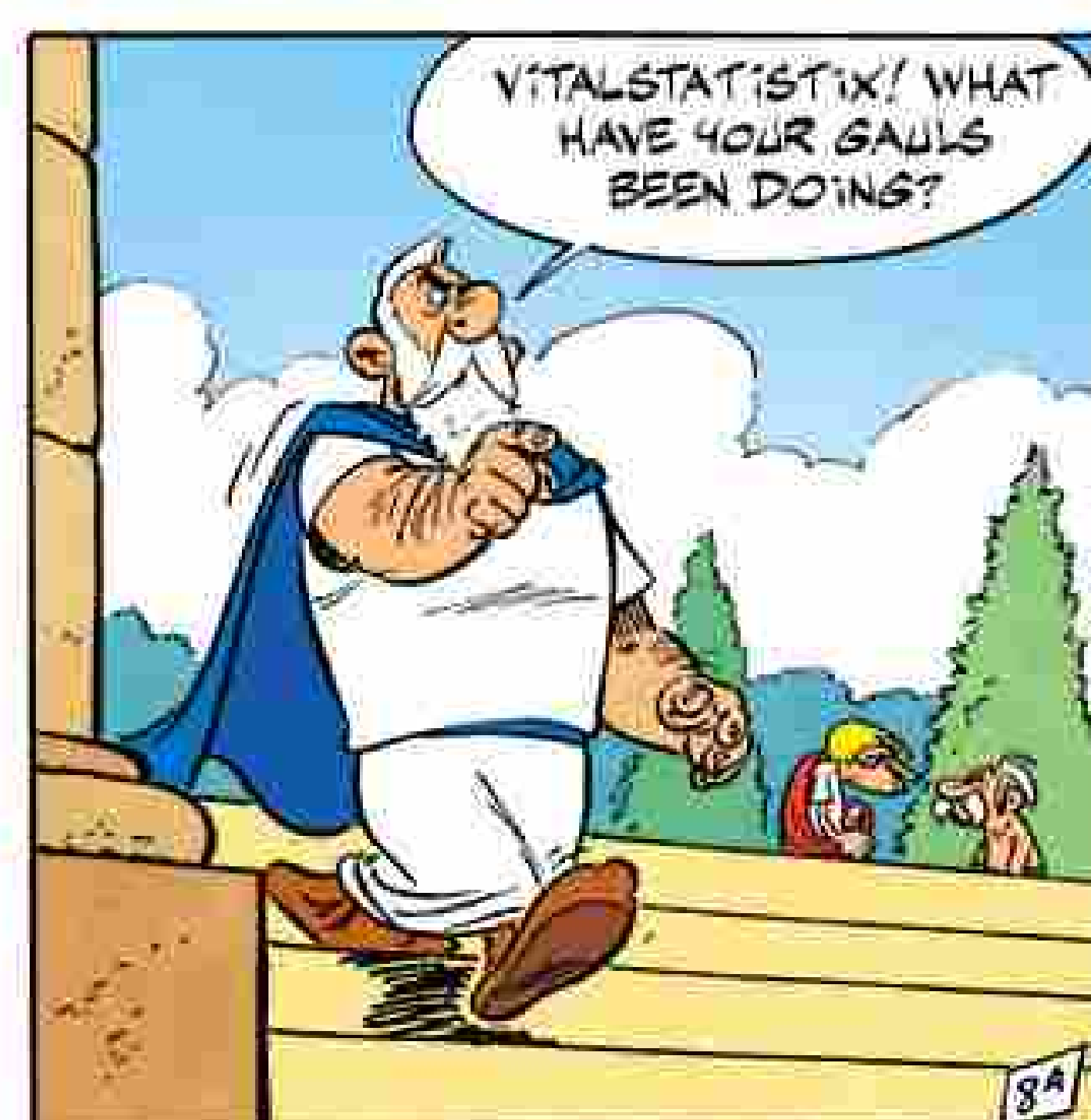
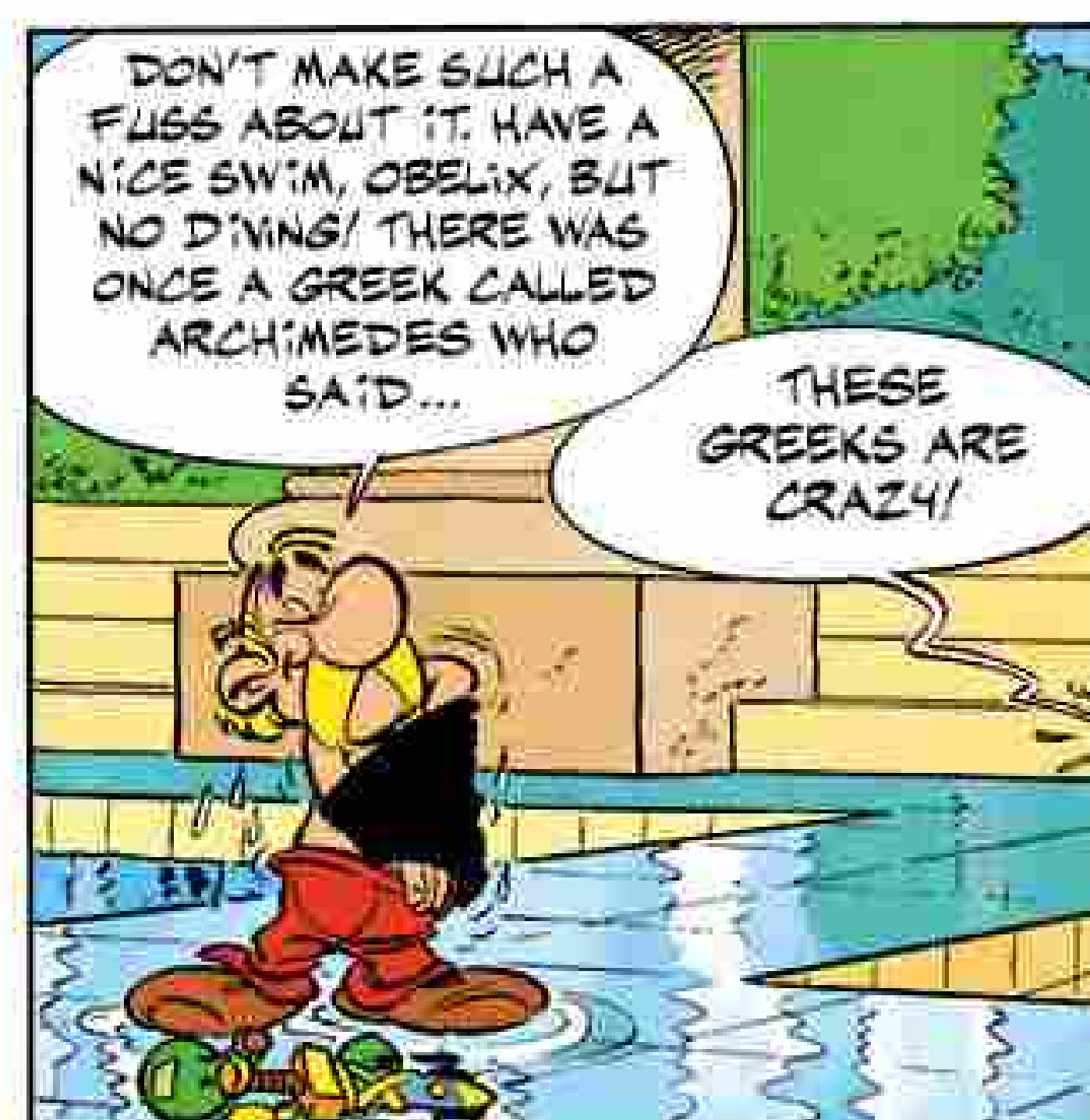


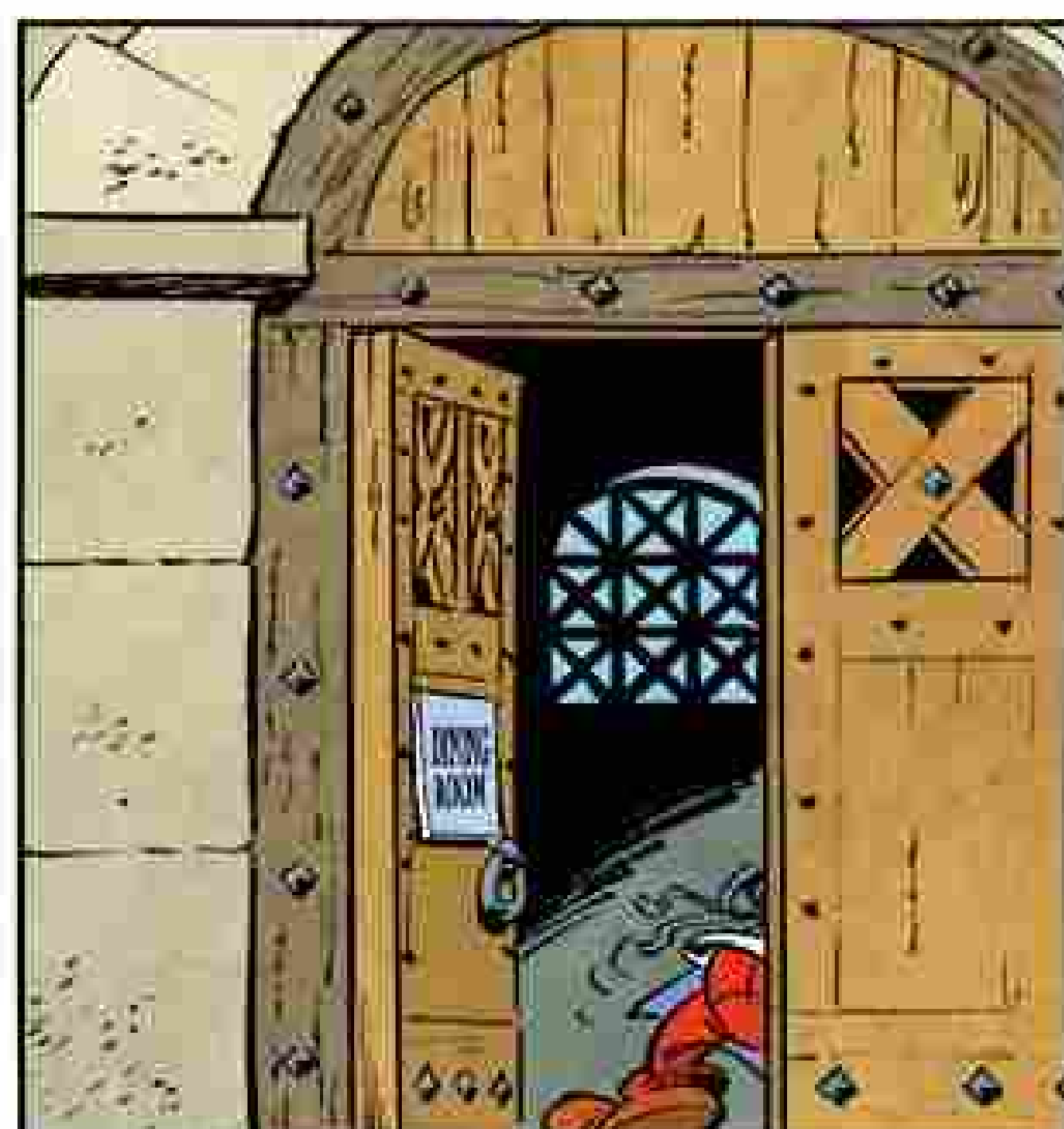
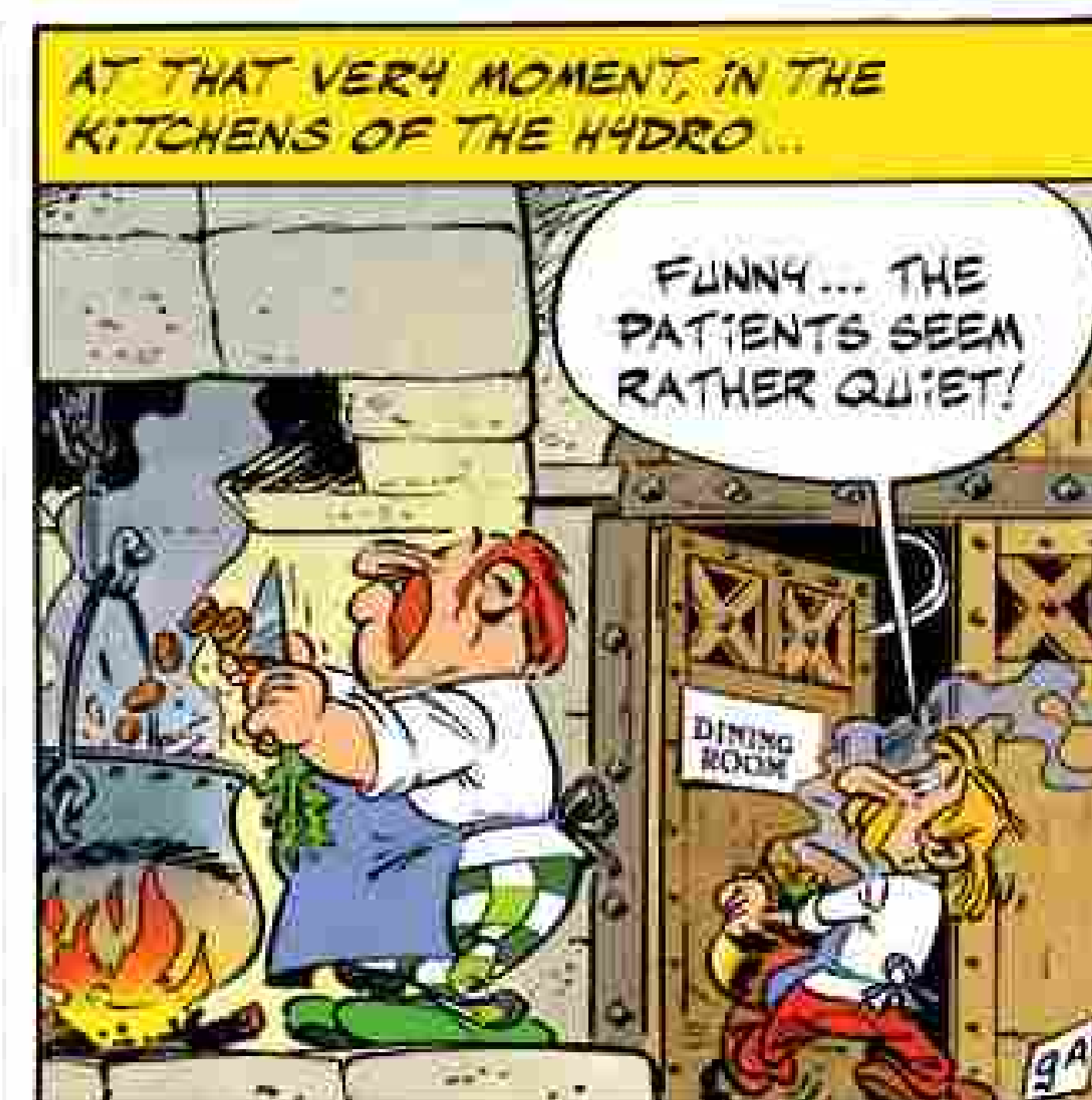
AND SERIOUS INCIDENTS ARE ONLY JUST AVERTED.

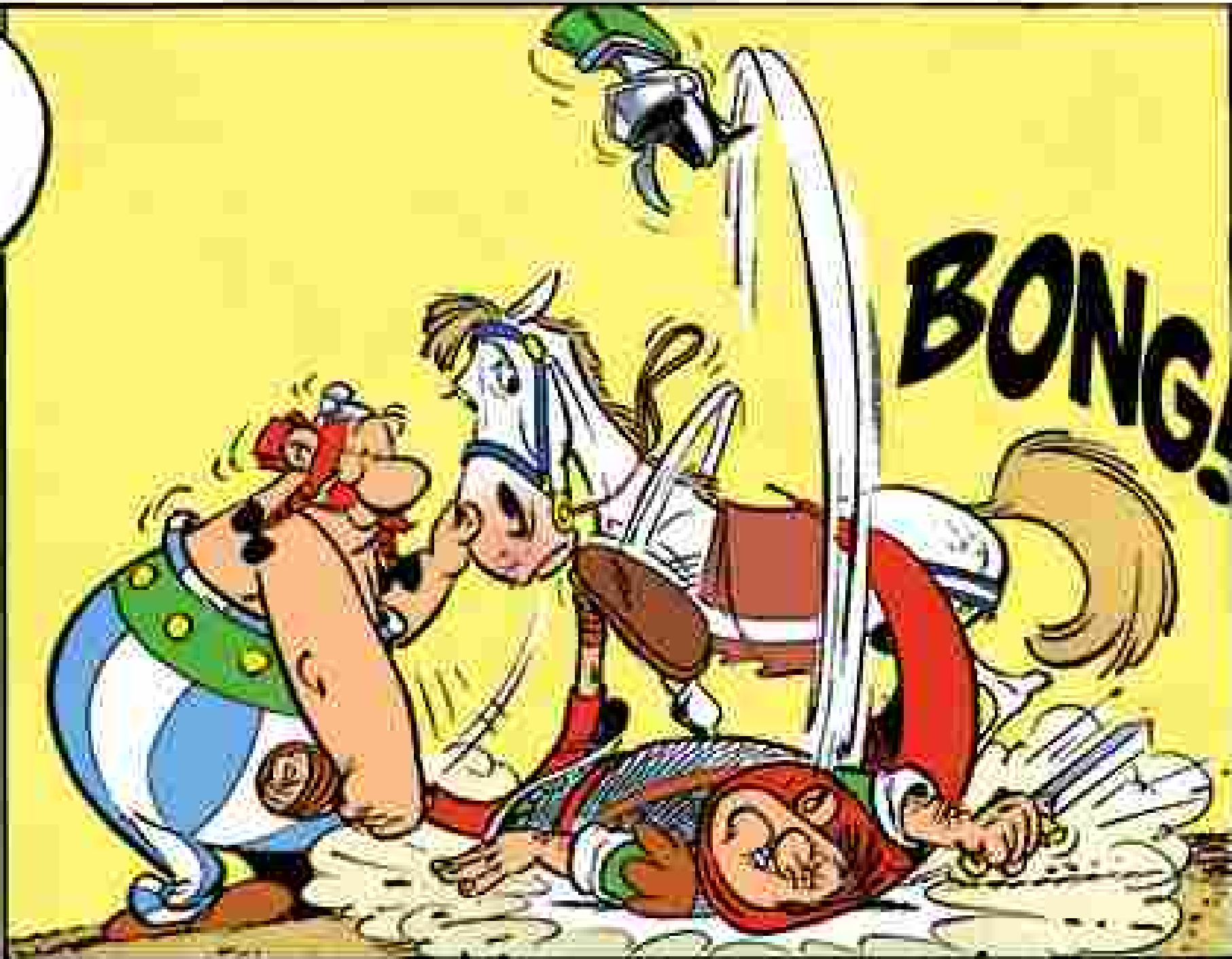


THE TREATMENT INCLUDES BATHING IN WATER FROM THE HOT SPRINGS.









SOON
AFTERWARDS

ANYONE FOR
SECONDS?

HOLD ON, I'M
GOING TO LOOK FOR
REINFORCEMENTS.

HEY, YOU IN
THERE! WHY
DON'T YOU
COME TO THE
AID OF YOUR
MEN?

YOU JUST WAIT, YOU
BANDIT! YOU BLACKGUARD!
YOU BARBARIAN! YOU'LL
SEE WHAT COMES OF
ATTACKING NOX'US
VAPUS, SPECIAL ENVOY
OF JULIUS CAESAR!

**VADE RETRO!
AUDACES FORTUNA
JUVAT!**

DEAR, DEAR, WHAT LANGUAGE!
NOW IT'S NO GOOD GETTING ALL
WORKED UP, IS IT? CALM DOWN,
LIKE A GOOD BOY!

PAT PAT PAT PAT PAT

OBSLIX, LEAVE THE MAN ALONE. I DON'T
THINK HE SEES THE JOKE. HE LOOKS
CRACKED TO ME... A BIT OF A
NUT-CASE.

RIGHT.

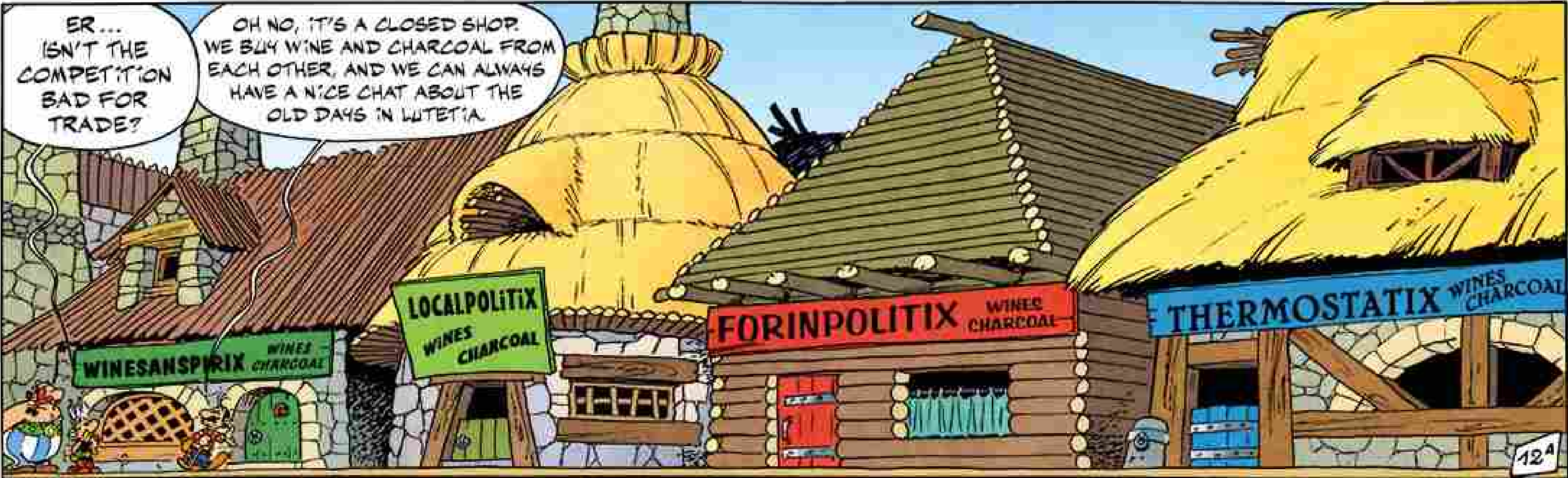
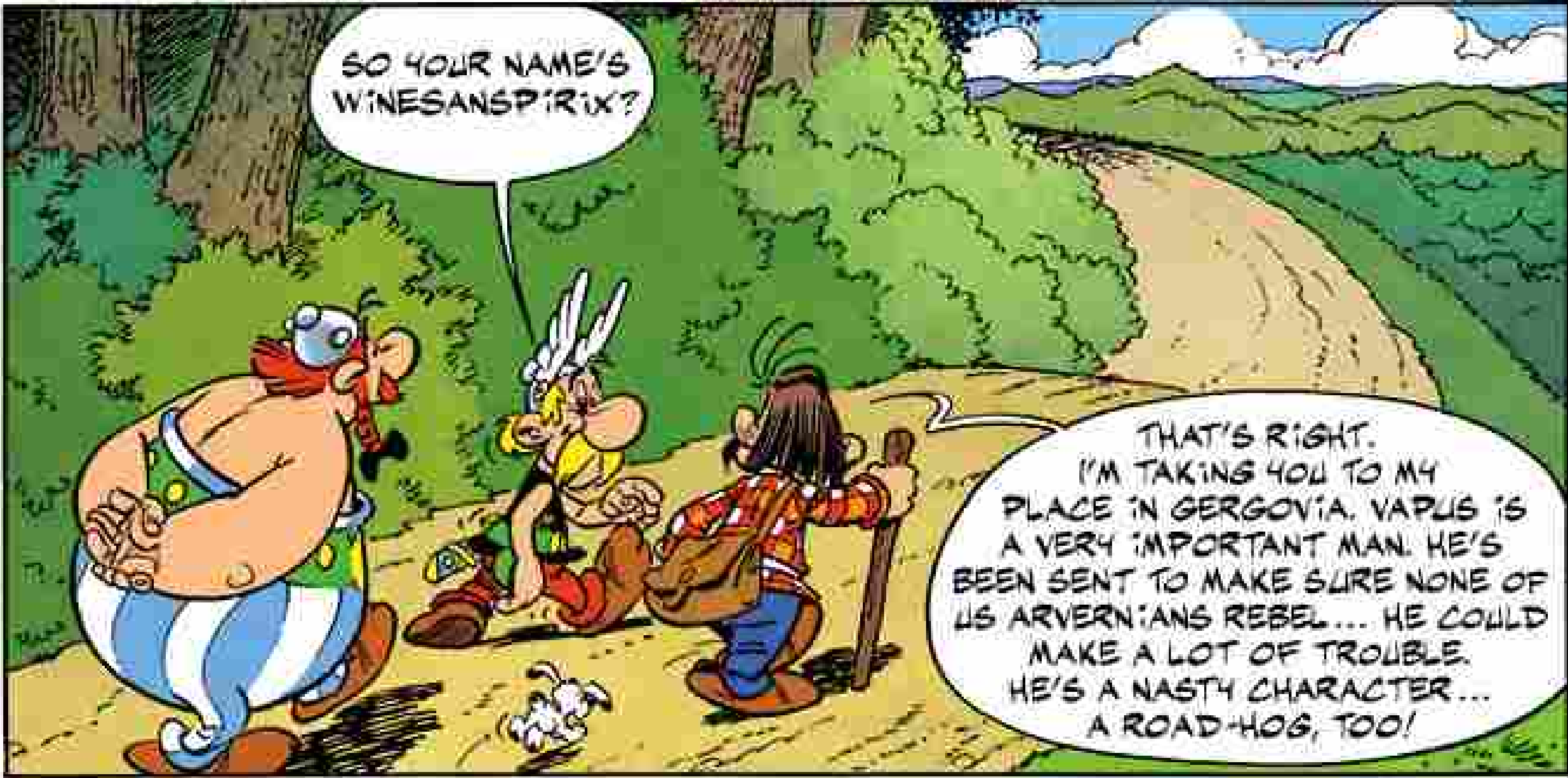
SPLASH!

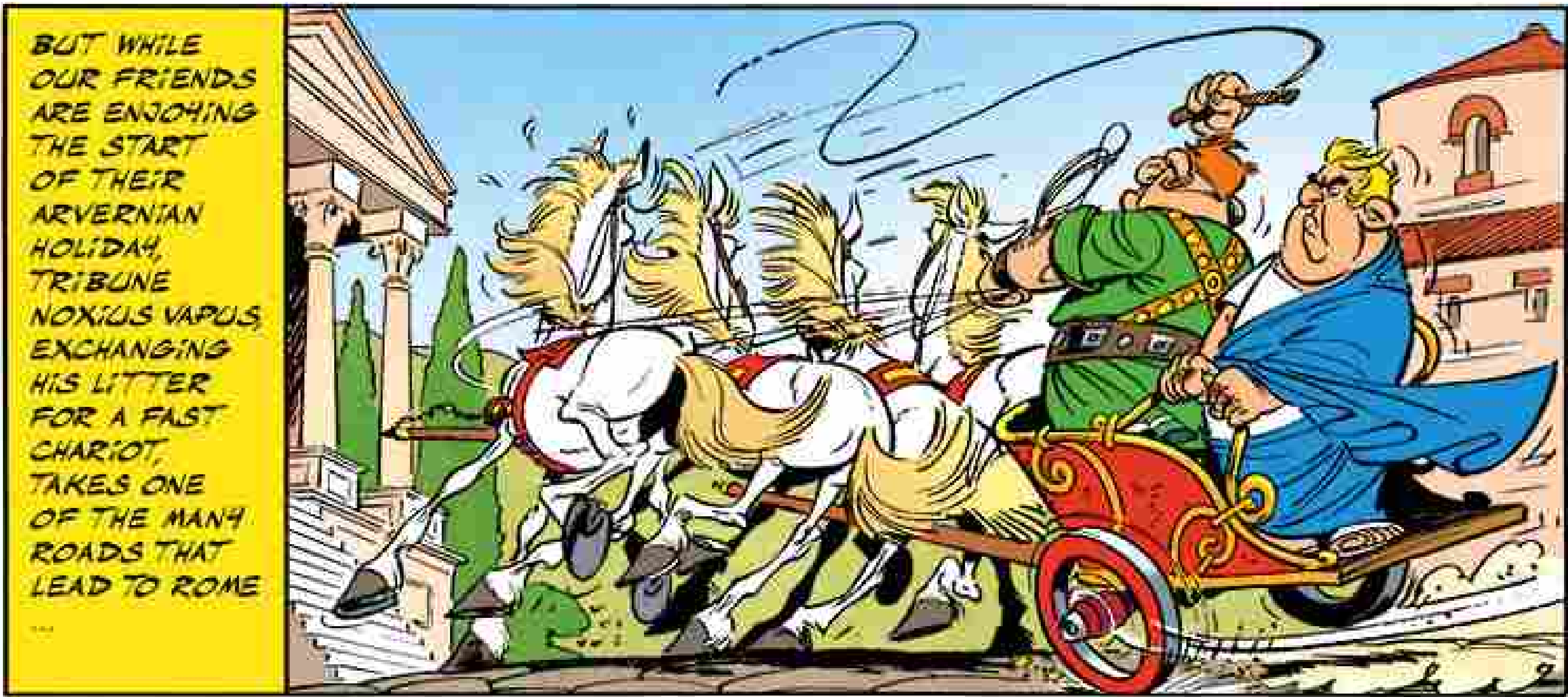
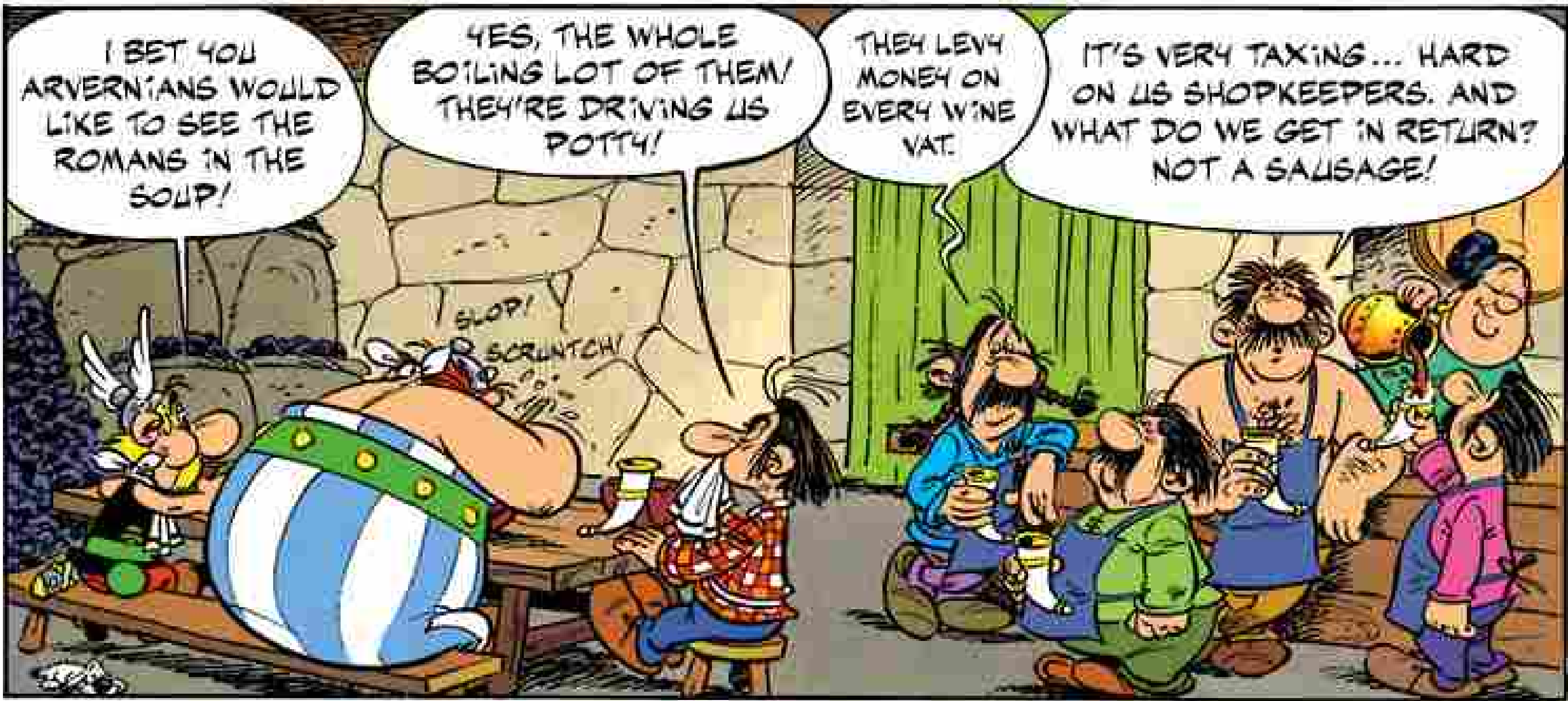
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WELL, WELL!
THEY'VE GOT VAPUS!

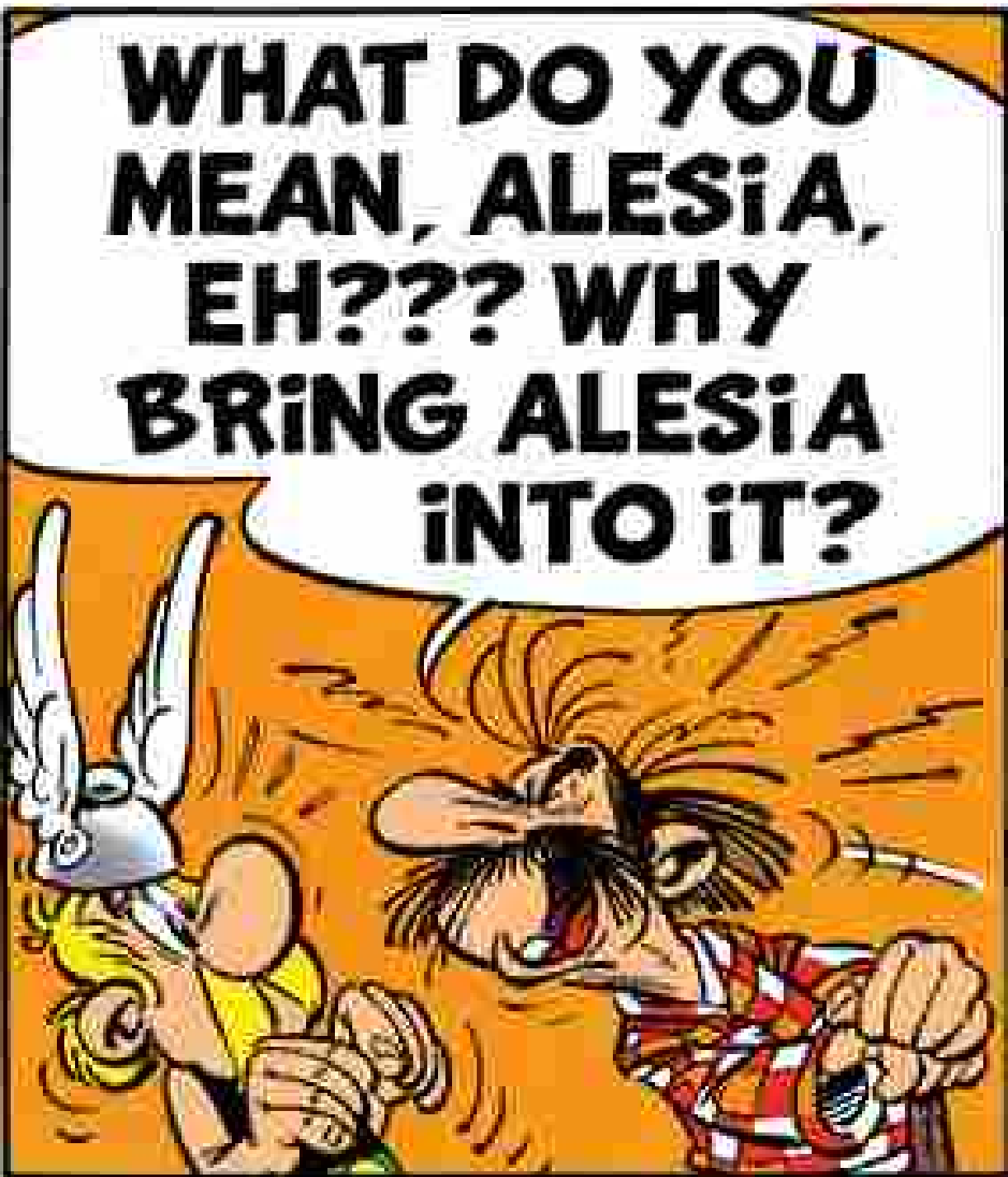
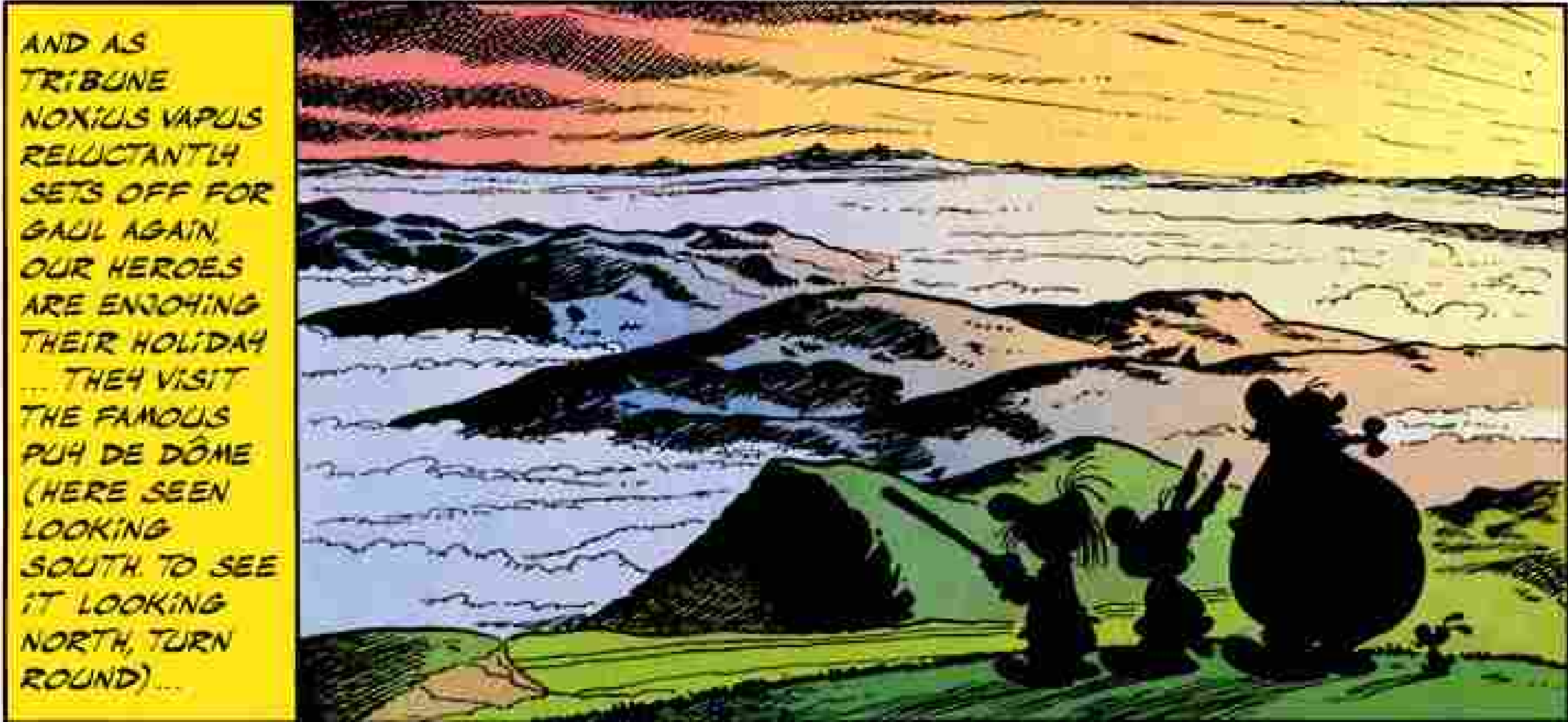
WHO'S GOT THE
VAPOURS?

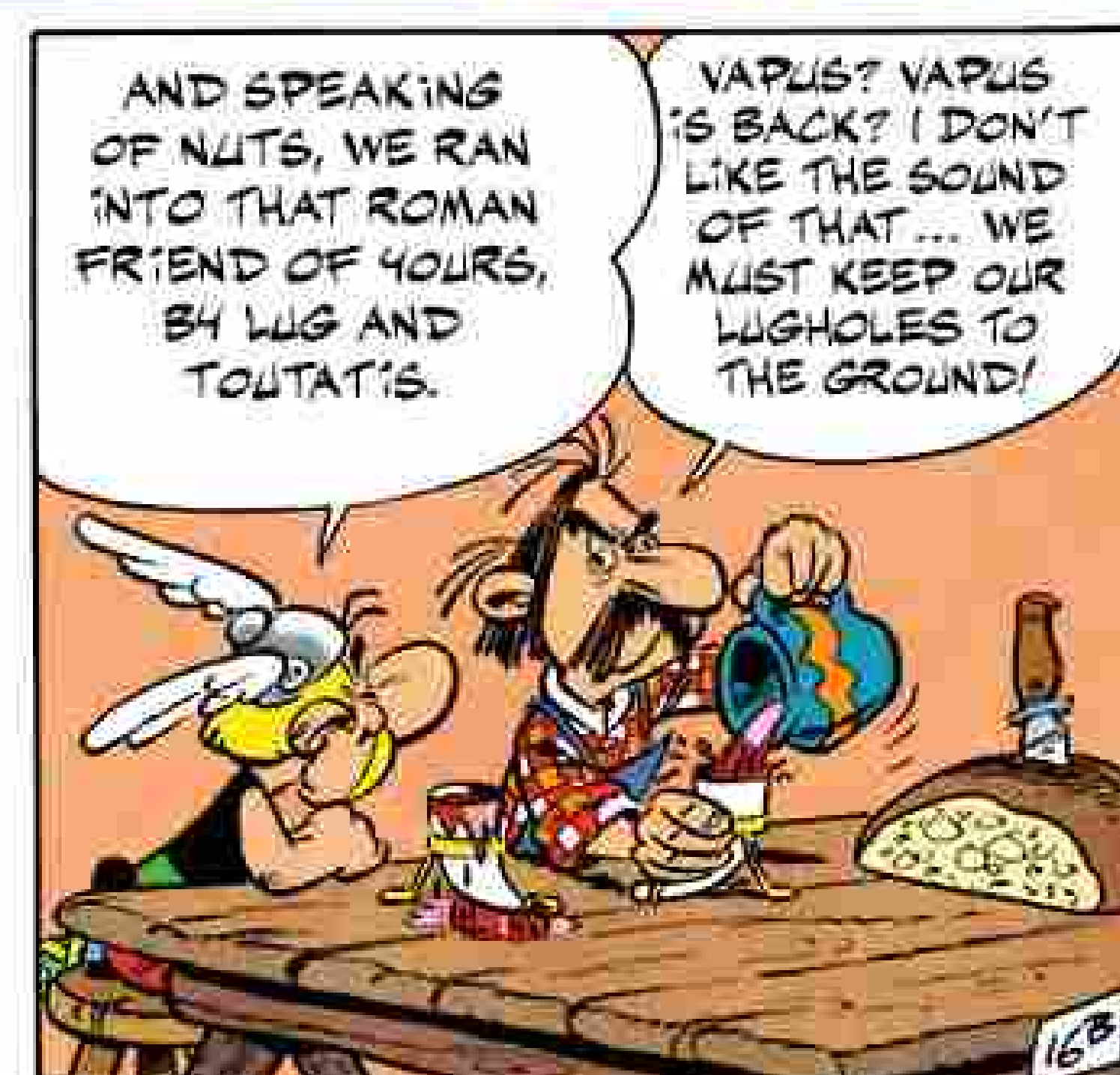
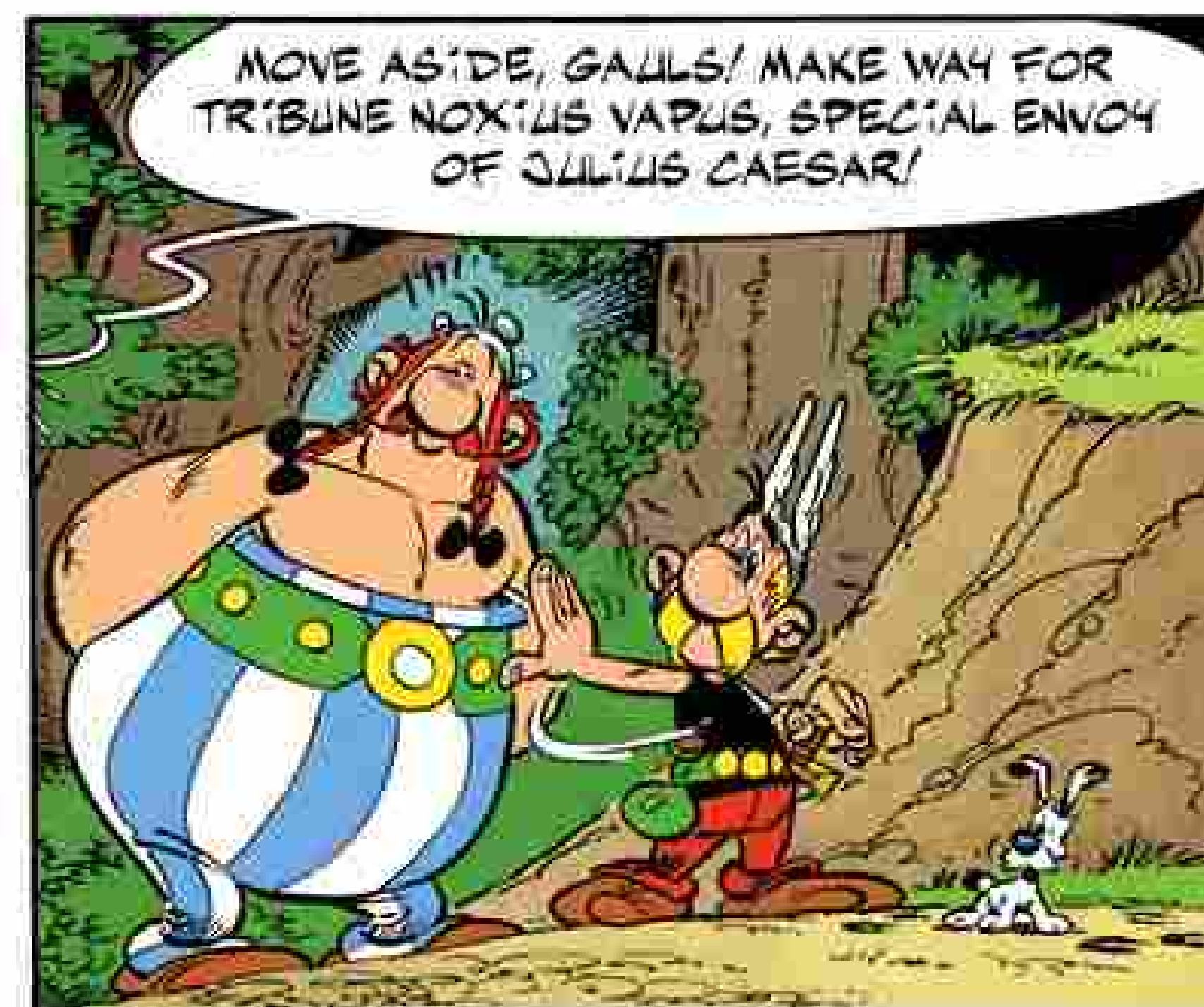
NO ONE; THAT'S HIS NAME.
YOU'VE BEEN HITTING NOX'US VAPUS,
A SPECIAL ENVOY FROM ROME.
DON'T LET'S HANG AROUND HERE;
THERE'LL BE TROUBLE.











VAPUS IS NOTORIOUS IN THESE PARTS. CAESAR SENDS HIM TO KEEP US DOWN. IF HE'S BACK, WE'RE IN FOR A BAD TIME!

OH, DON'T LET'S BOTHER ABOUT A LITTLE THING LIKE THAT!

IT'S A REAL PLEASURE TO COOK FOR A MAN WHO ENJOYS HIS FOOD!

OH, I SAY!

MEANWHILE, TRIBUNE NOXIUS VAPUS ARRIVES AT THE PREFECT'S PALACE...

AVE, NOXIUS VAPUS! I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU BACK SO SOON... ER... DID YOU HAVE A GOOD JOURNEY?

SUMMON ALL THE COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL GARRISONS AT ONCE. ALL LEAVE IS CANCELLED!

HEAR THAT? JOIN UP, THEY SAID. IT'S A MAN'S LIFE, THEY SAID...

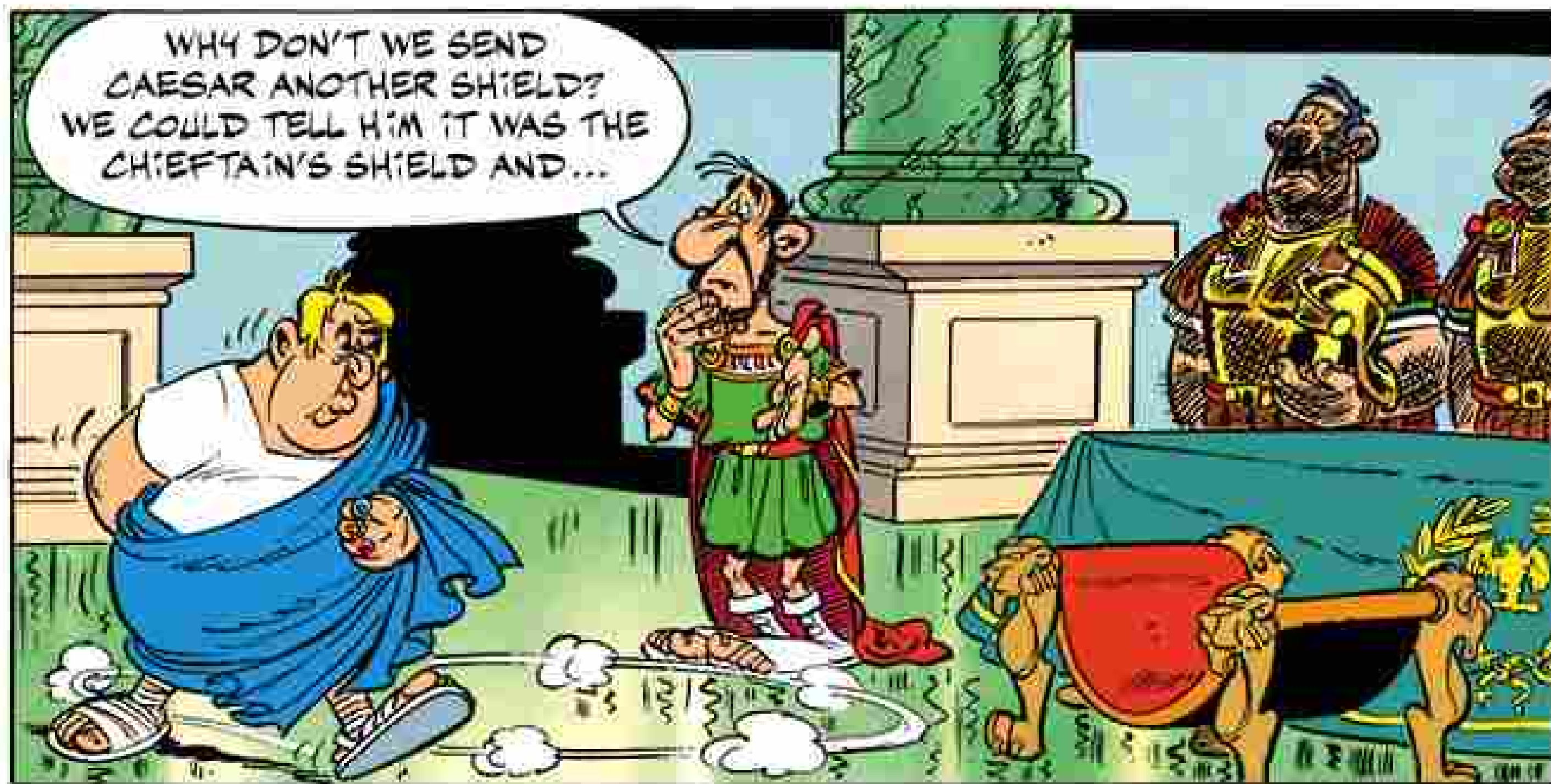
SOON AFTERWARDS...

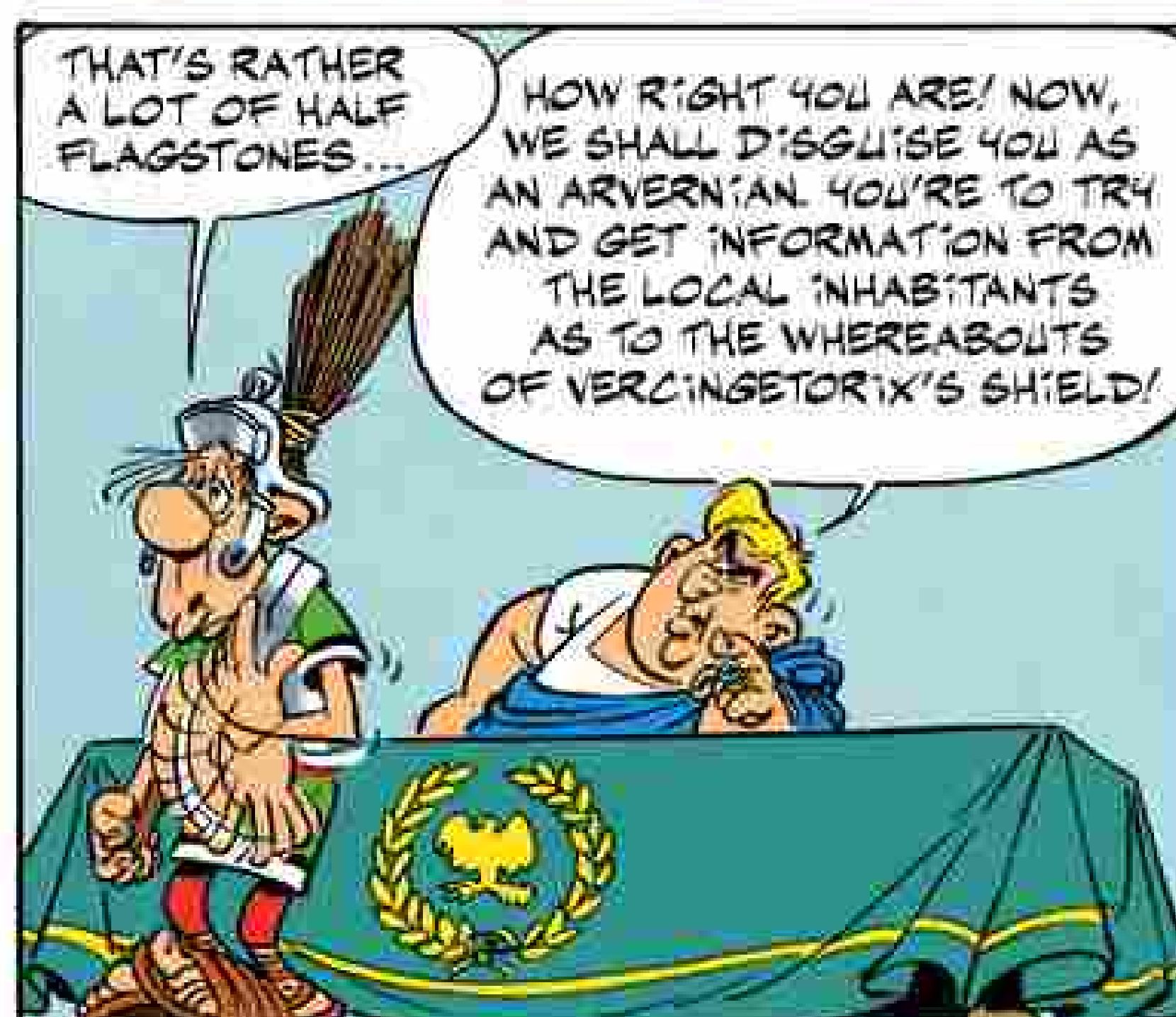
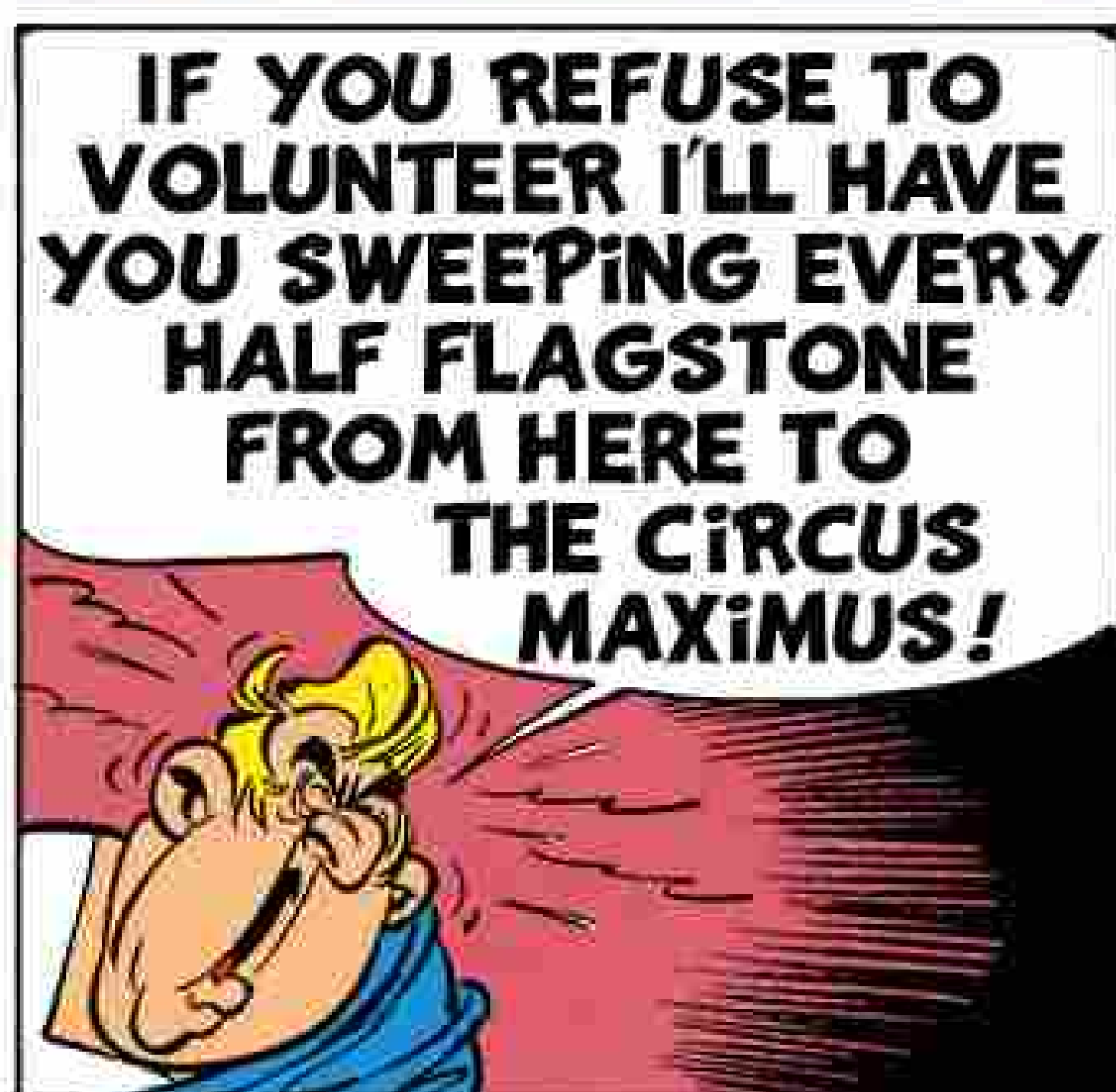
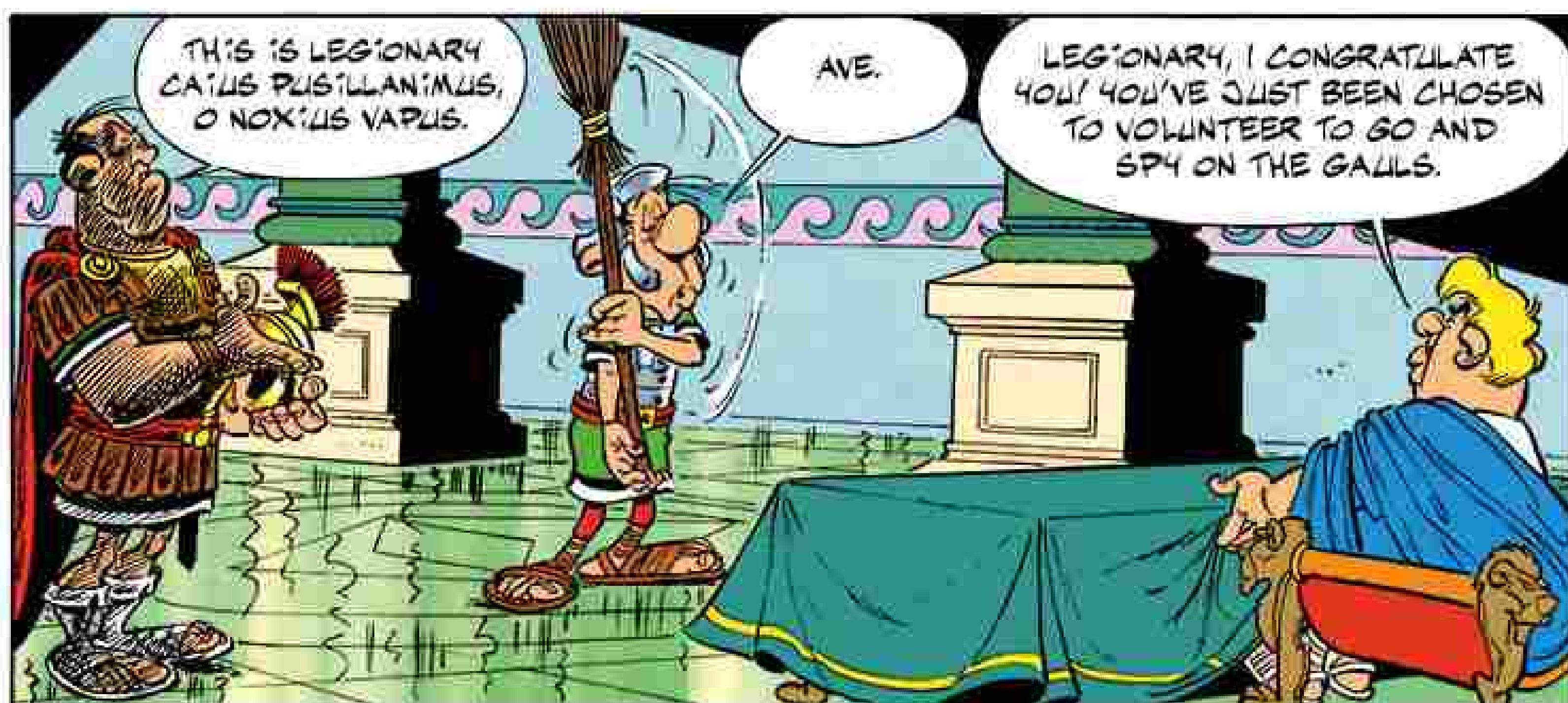
WELL, THOSE ARE YOUR ORDERS: FIND THE CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD SO THAT CAESAR CAN HOLD HIS TRIUMPH IN GERGOVIA!

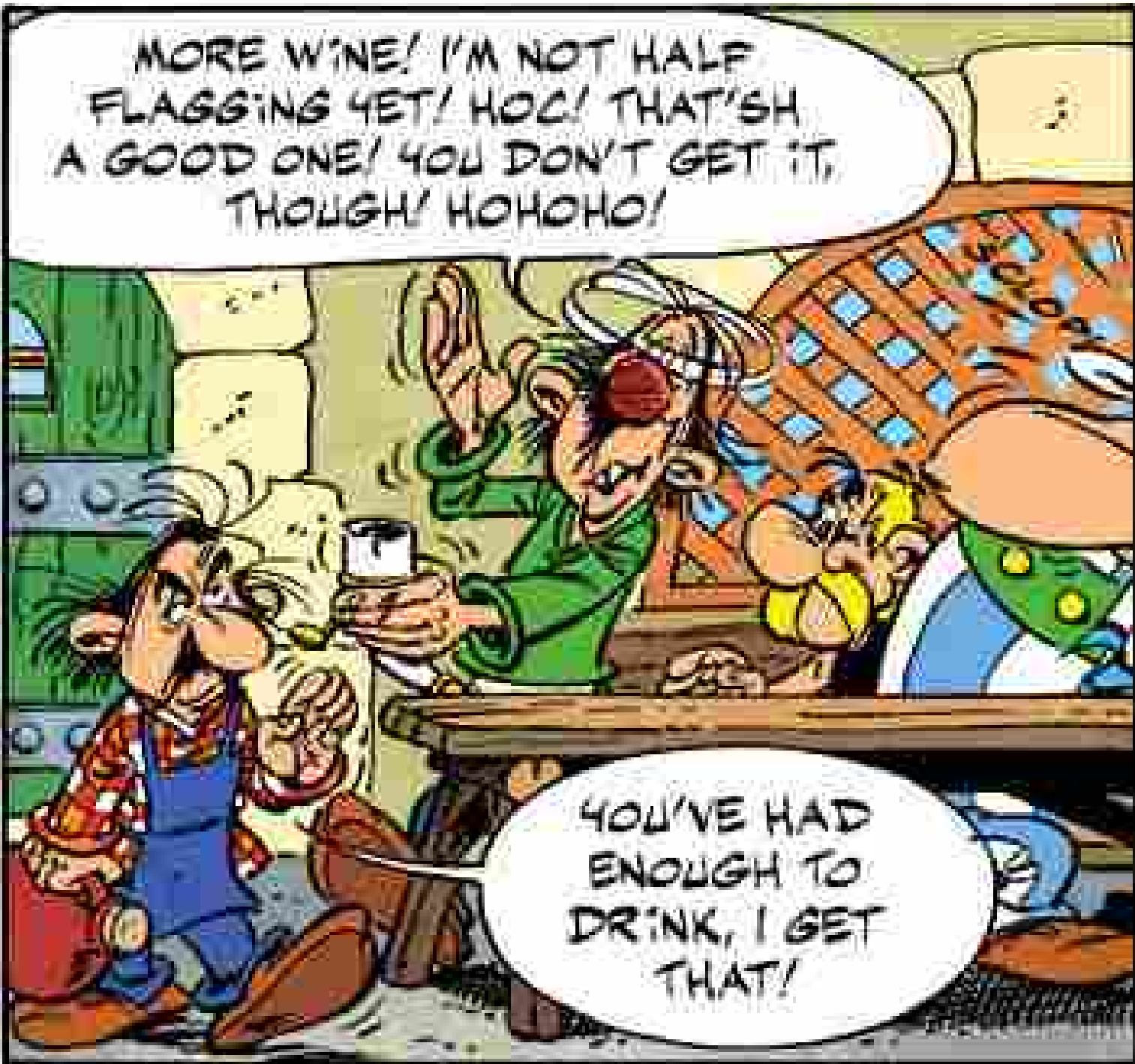
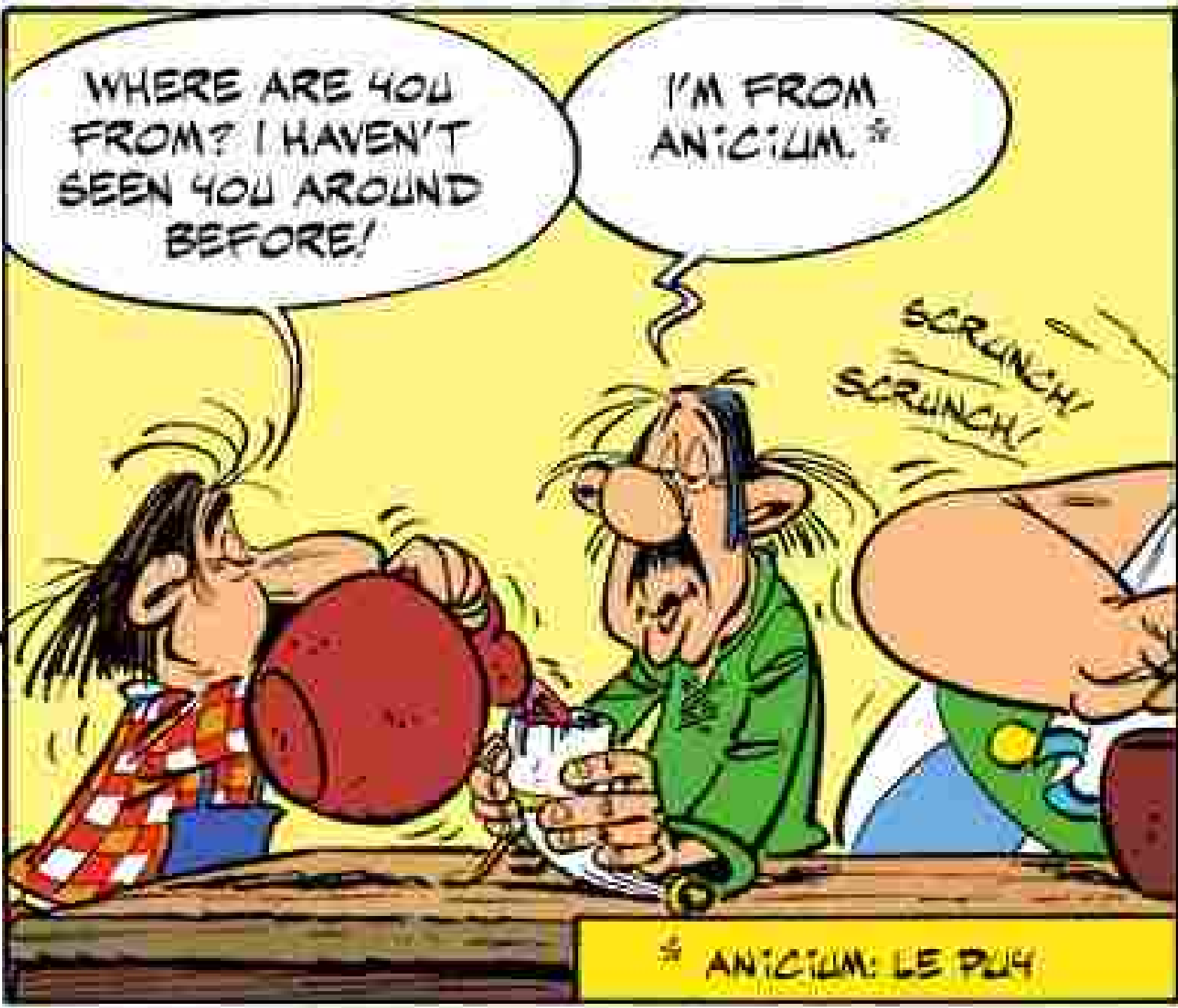
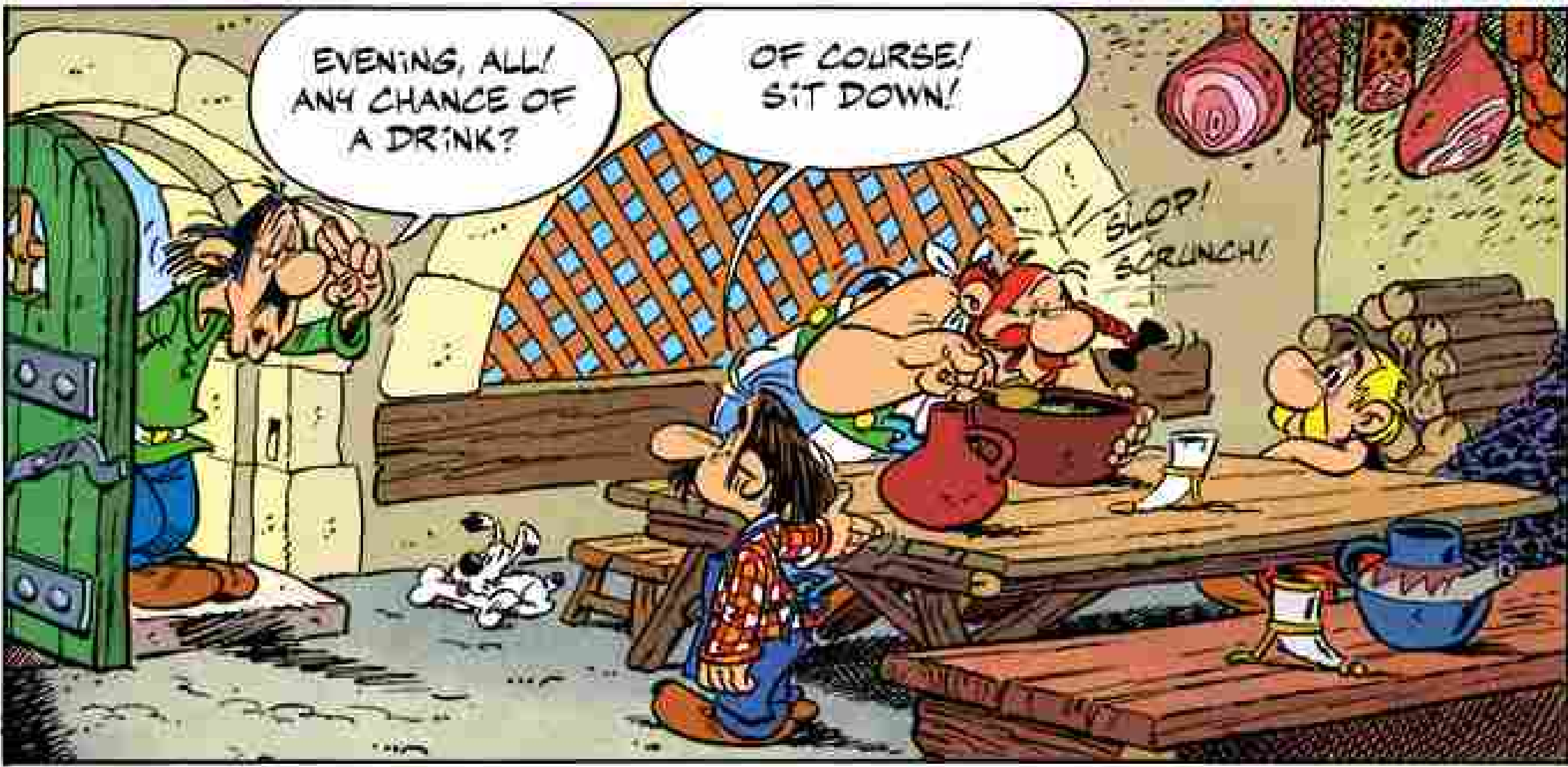
A LOT OF ALESIAANS CAME TO LIVE IN GERGOVIA AFTER THEIR DEFEAT. THAT GIVES US A GOOD OPENING. SEARCH EVERY HOUSE! AND GET MOVING, BY JUPITER!

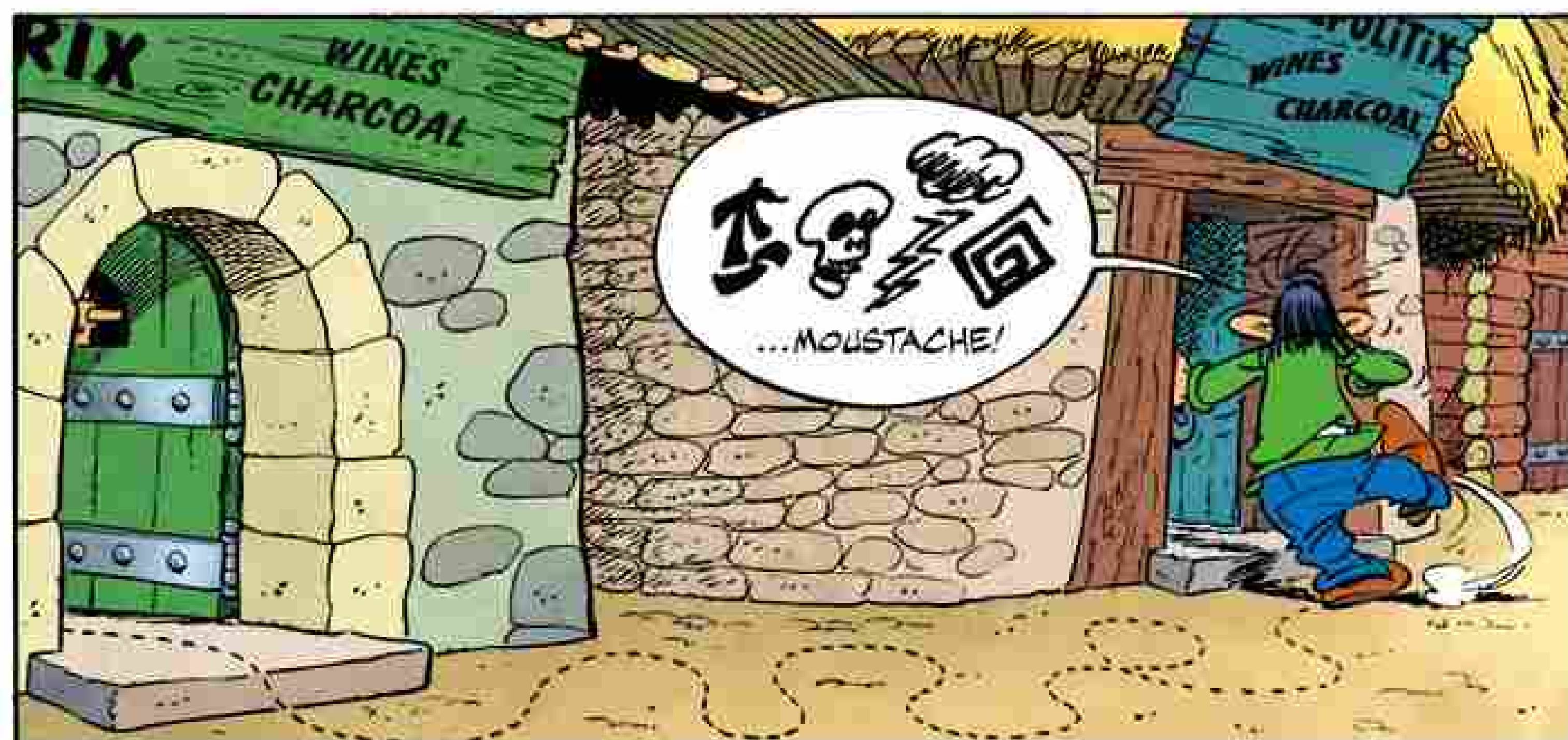












MEANWHILE, OUR FRIENDS
HAVE ARRIVED AT THE
LARGE ARVERNIAN TOWN
OF NEMESSOS.



* CLERMONT-FERRAND

BUT HOW DO WE
SET ABOUT FINDING
CIRCUMBENDIBUS,
ASTERIX?

HE MAKES WHEELS...
IT SHOULD BE EASY
TO SPOT A WHEEL
FACTORY...

THERE, LOOK!
THE OTHER SIDE OF
THE SQUARE WITH THE
STATUE OF JULIUS
CAESAR!

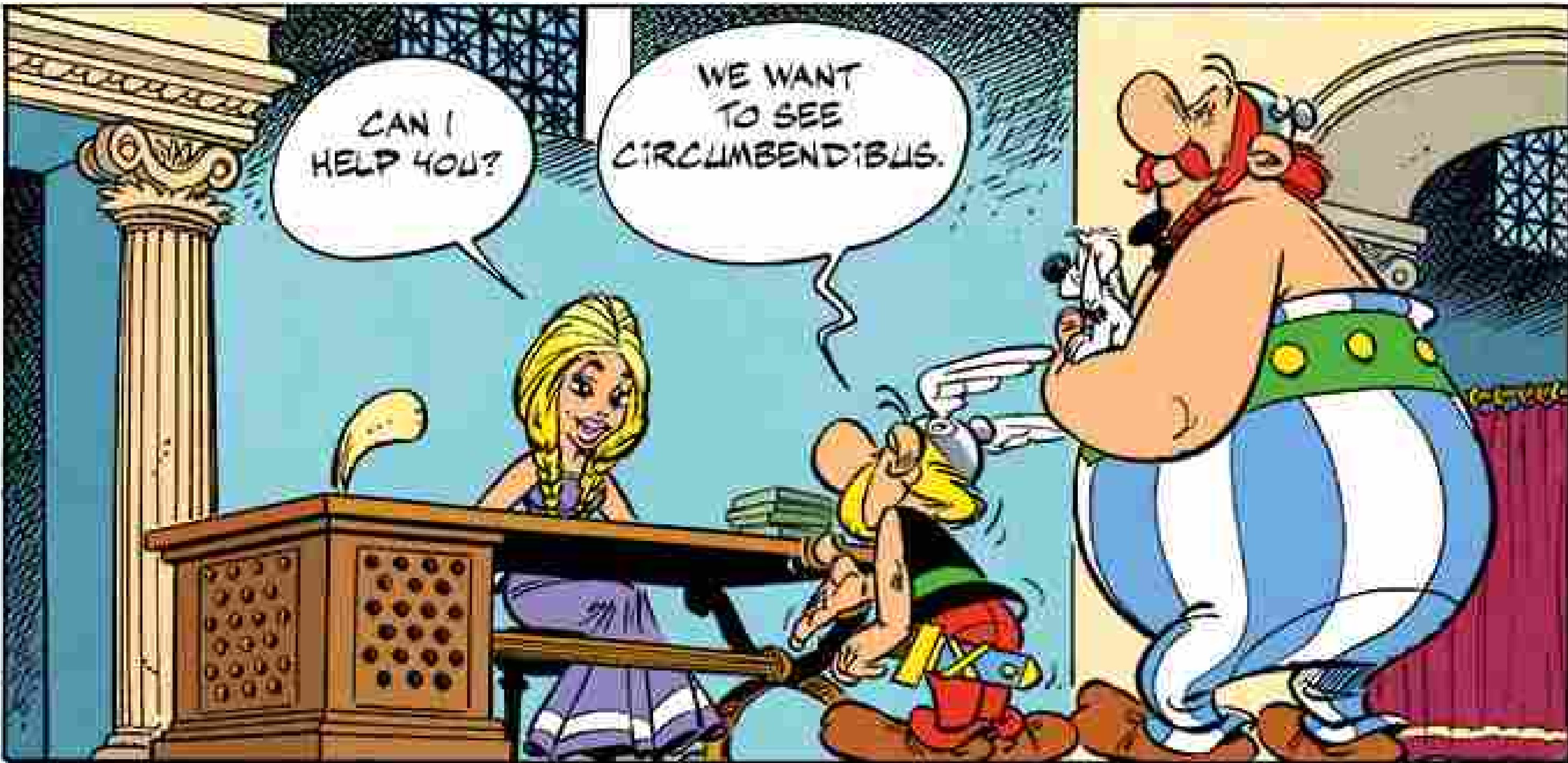


COME
ALONG!



CAN I
HELP YOU?

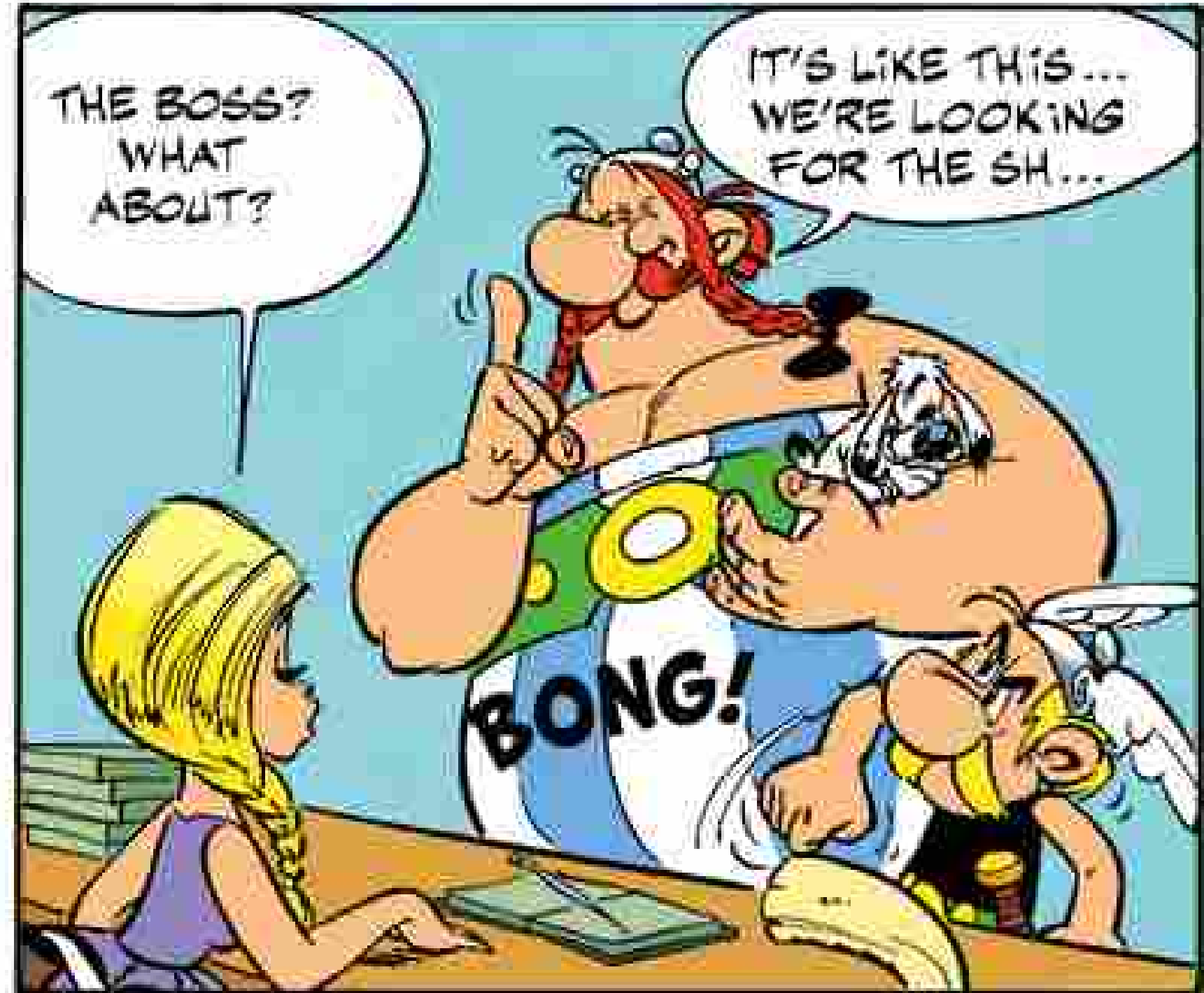
WE WANT
TO SEE
CIRCUMBENDIBUS.



THE BOSS?
WHAT
ABOUT?

IT'S LIKE THIS...
WE'RE LOOKING
FOR THE SH...

BONG!



PRIVATE
BUSINESS.
OUR NAMES
ARE ASTERIX
AND OBELIX.

AND
DOGMATIX.

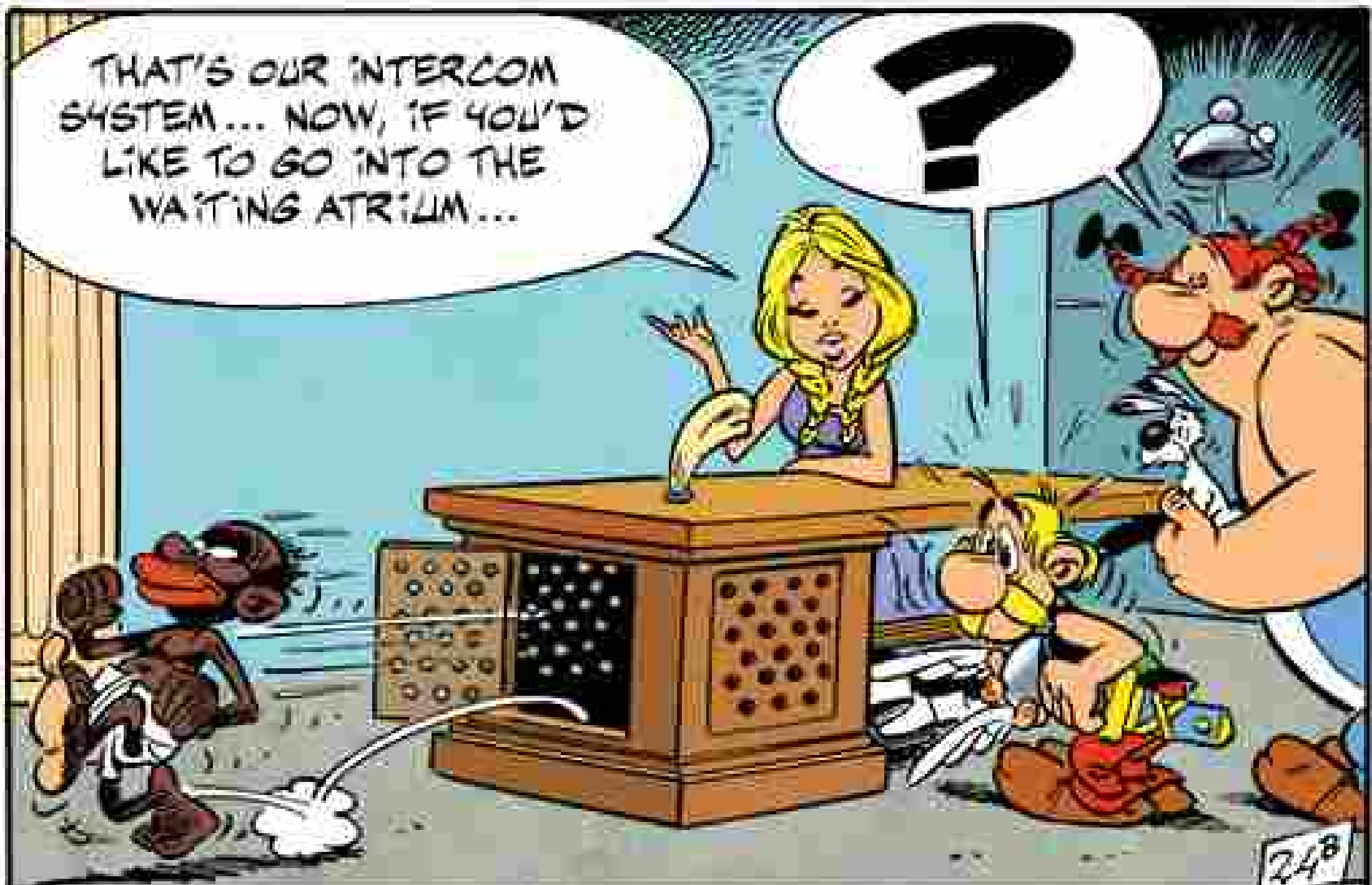


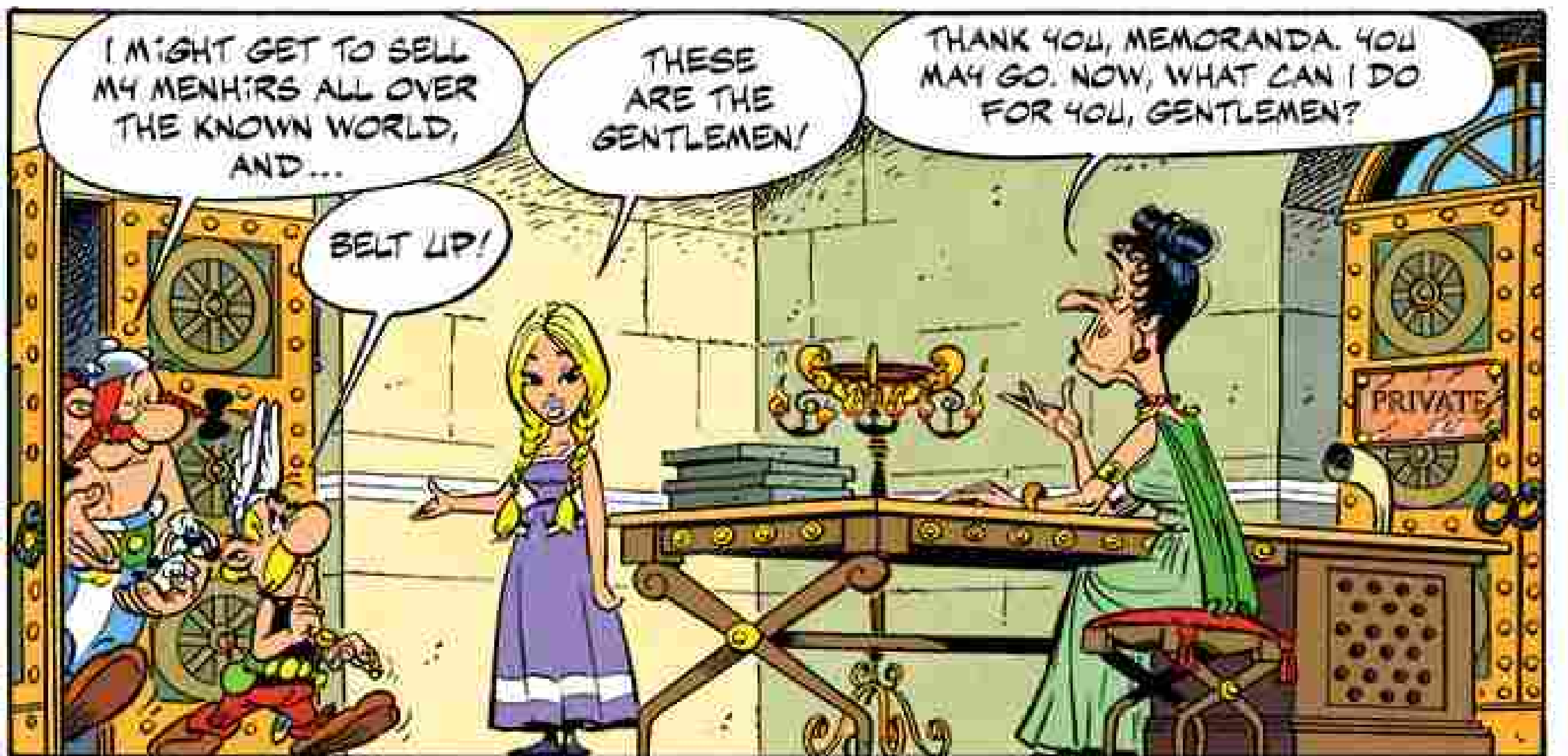
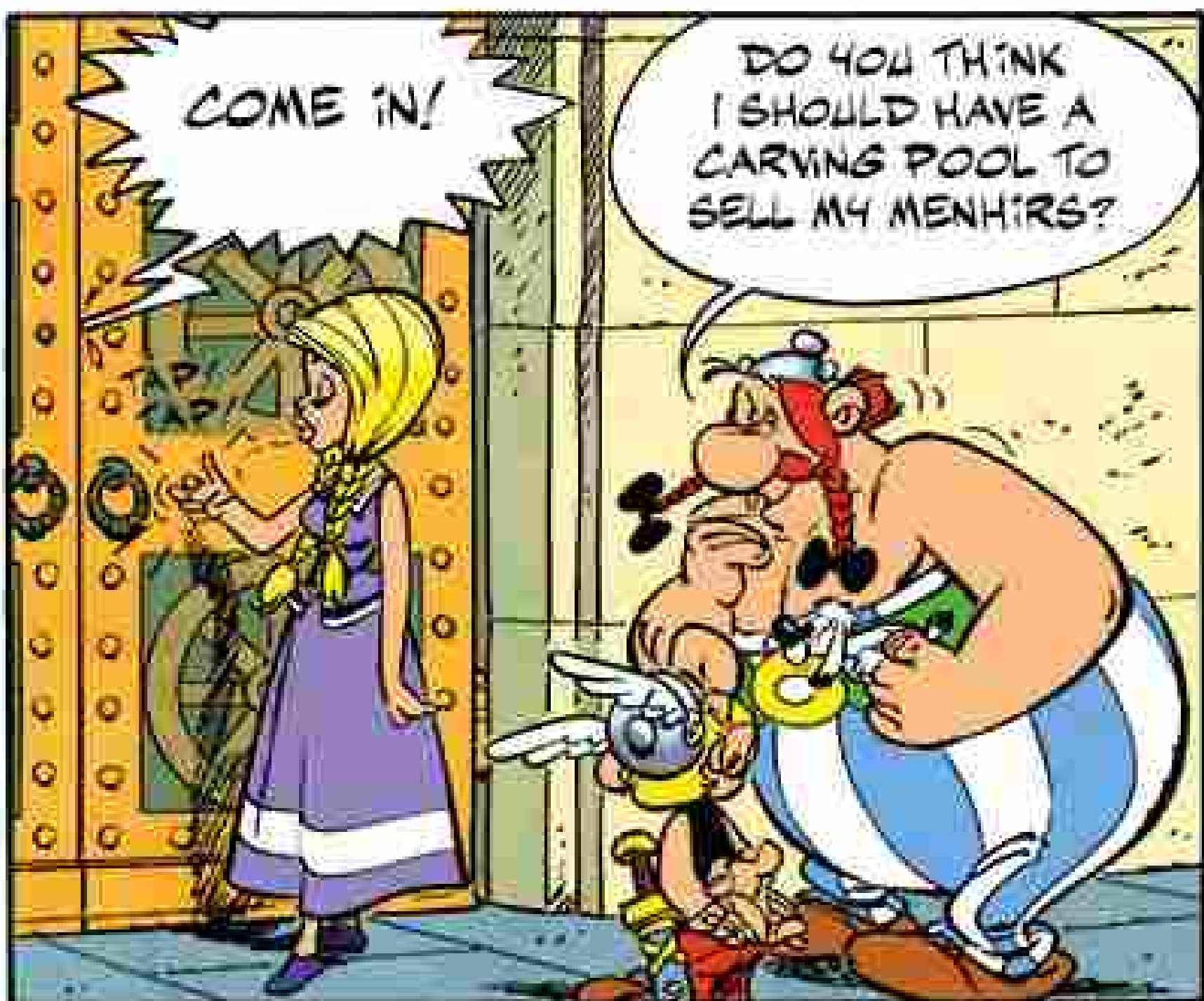
ASTERIX AND OBELIX WOULD
LIKE TO SEE THE BOSS ON
PRIVATE BUSINESS.

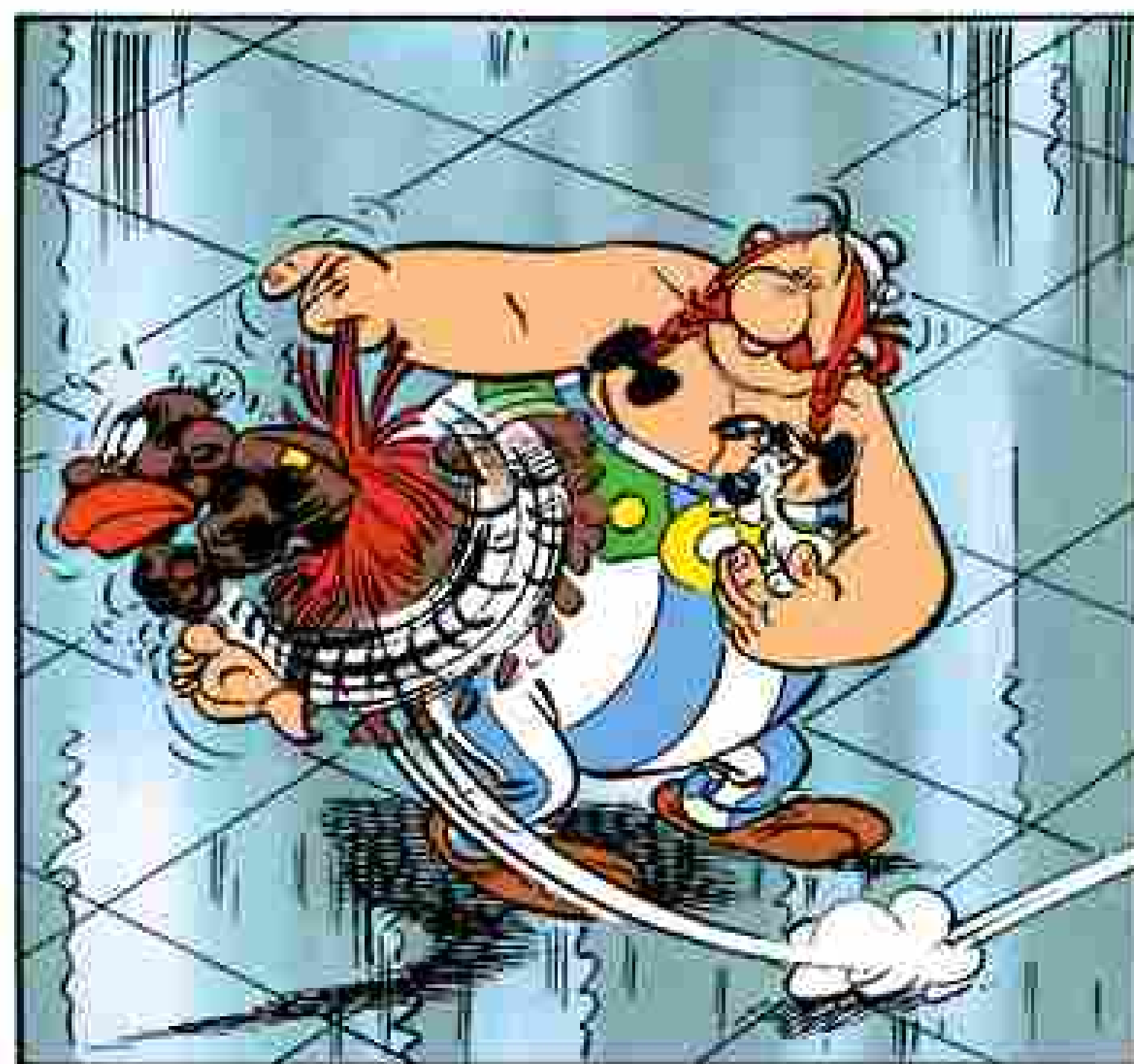
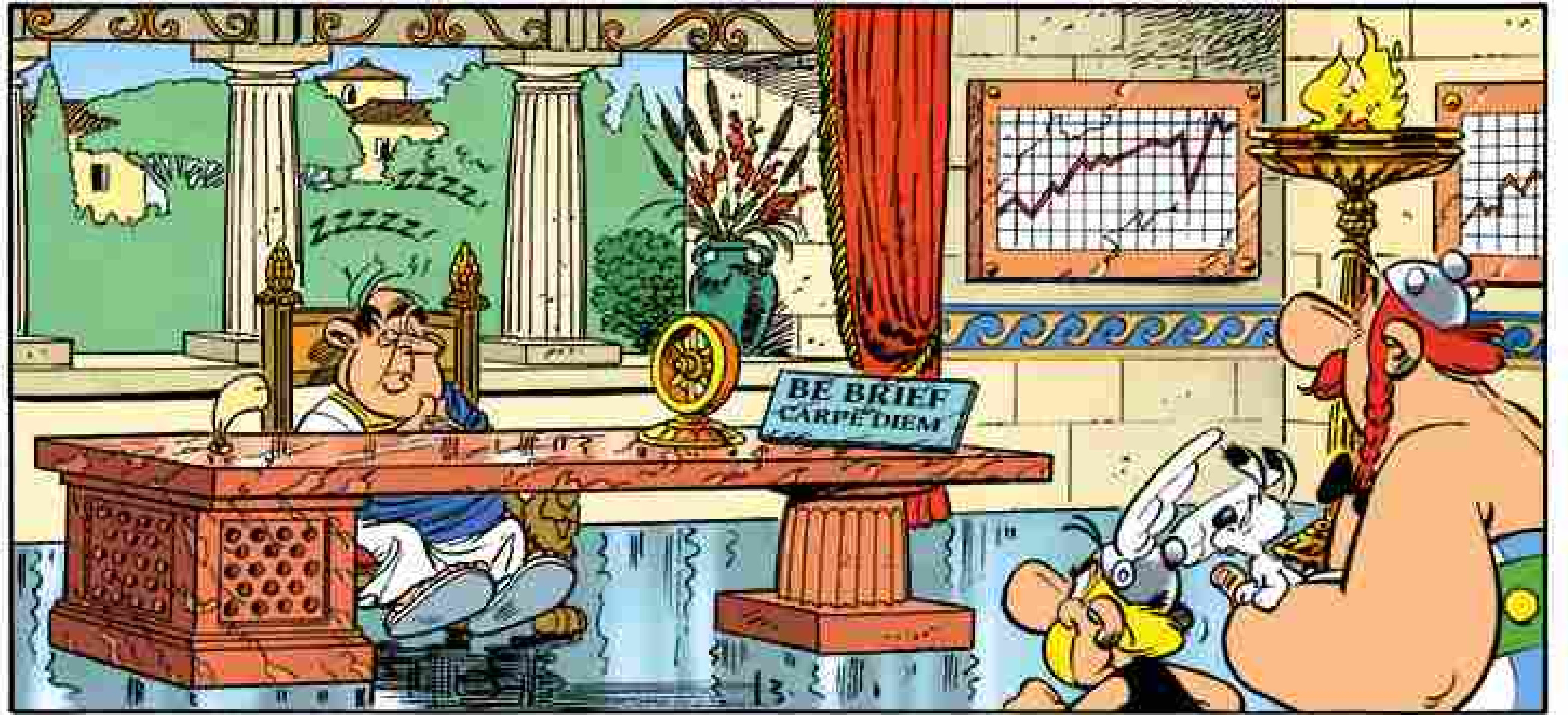


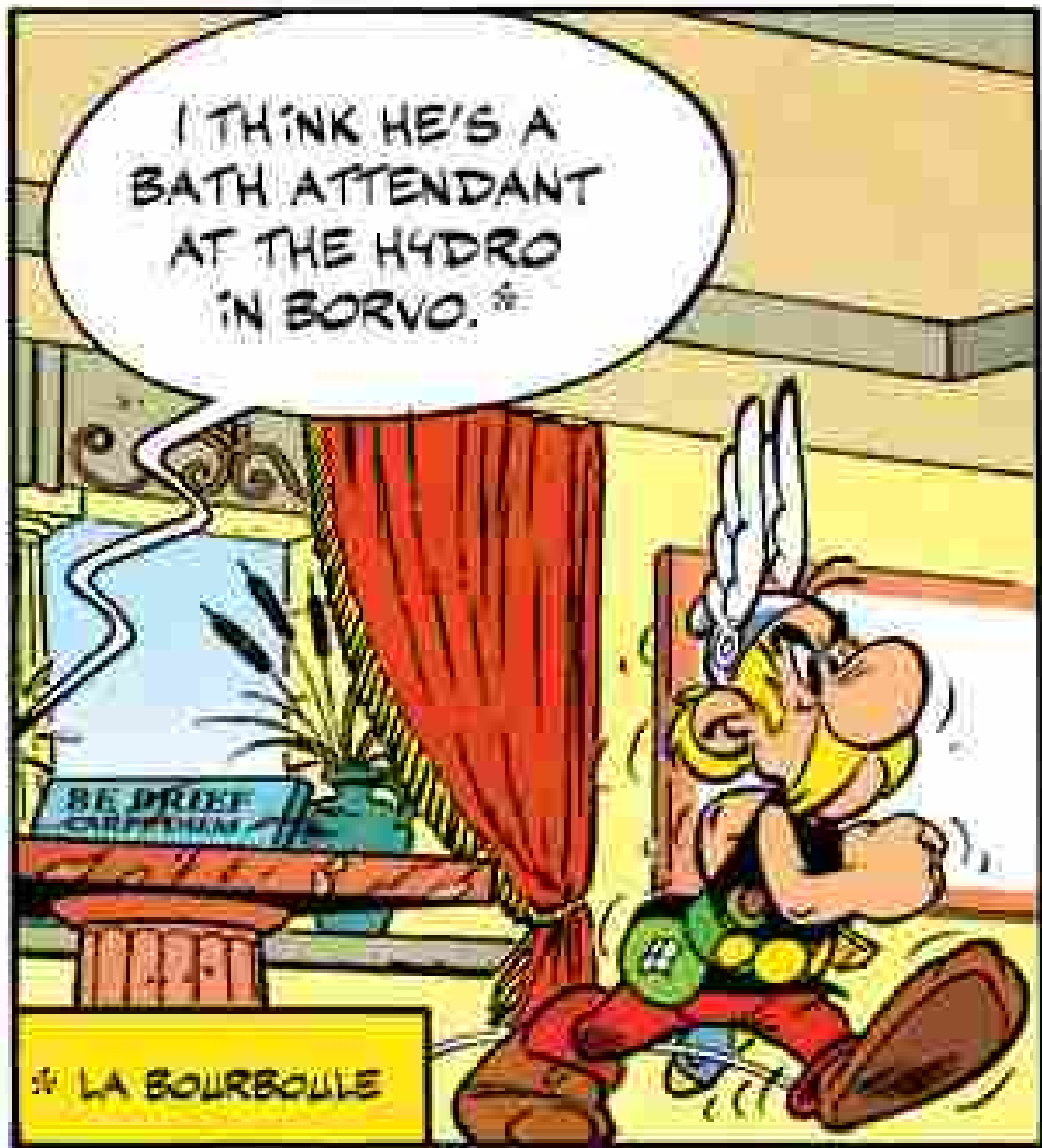
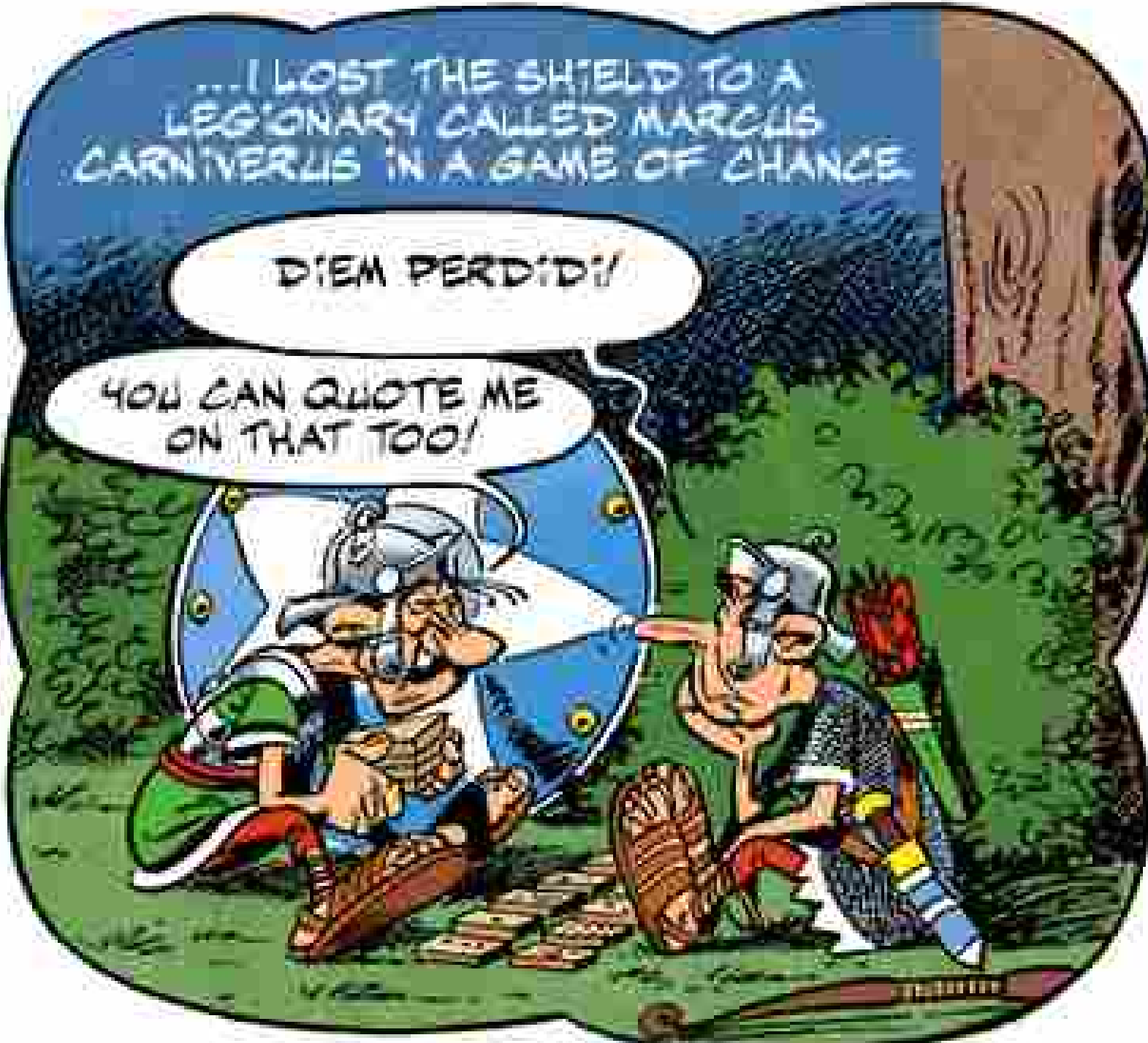
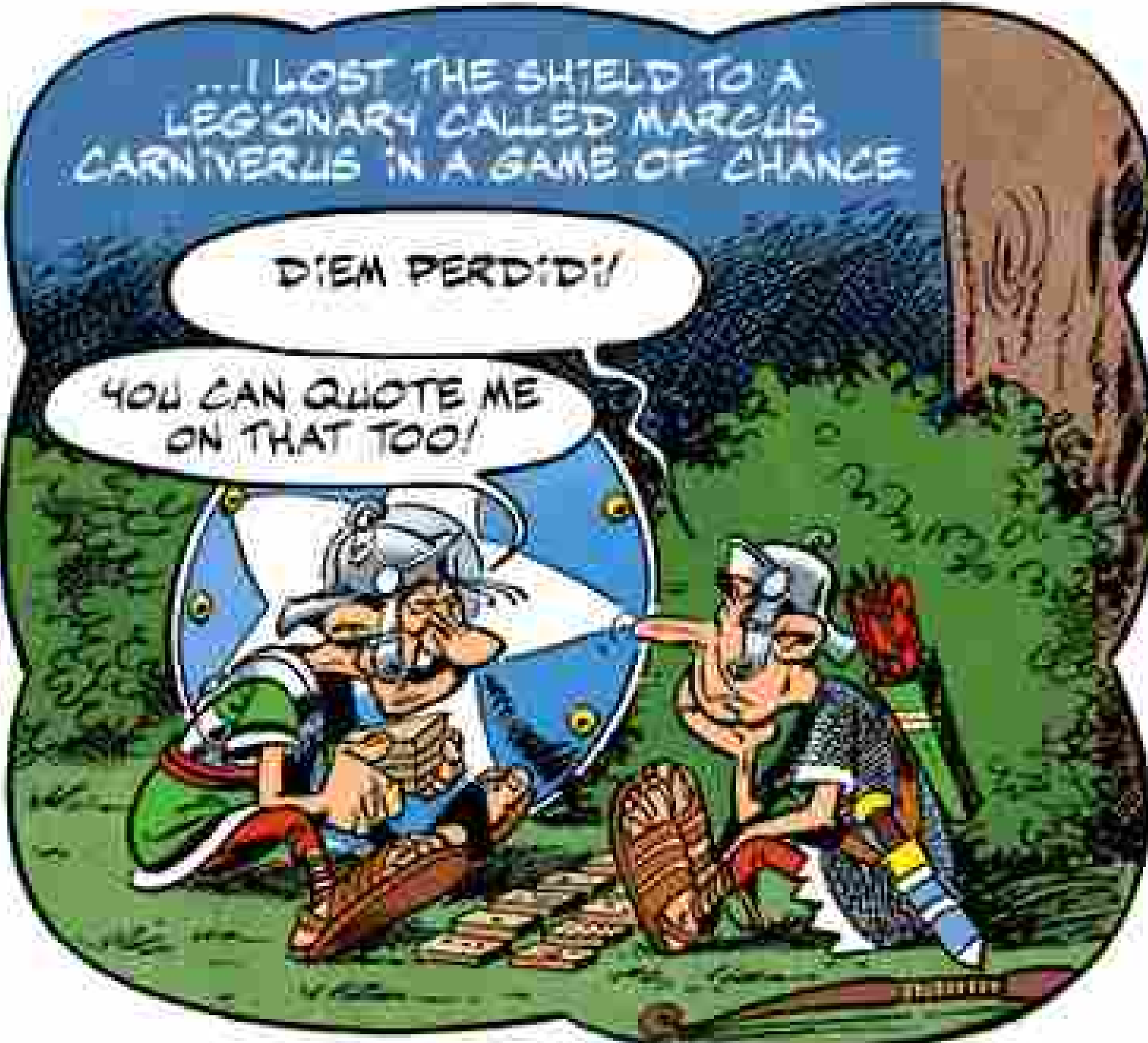
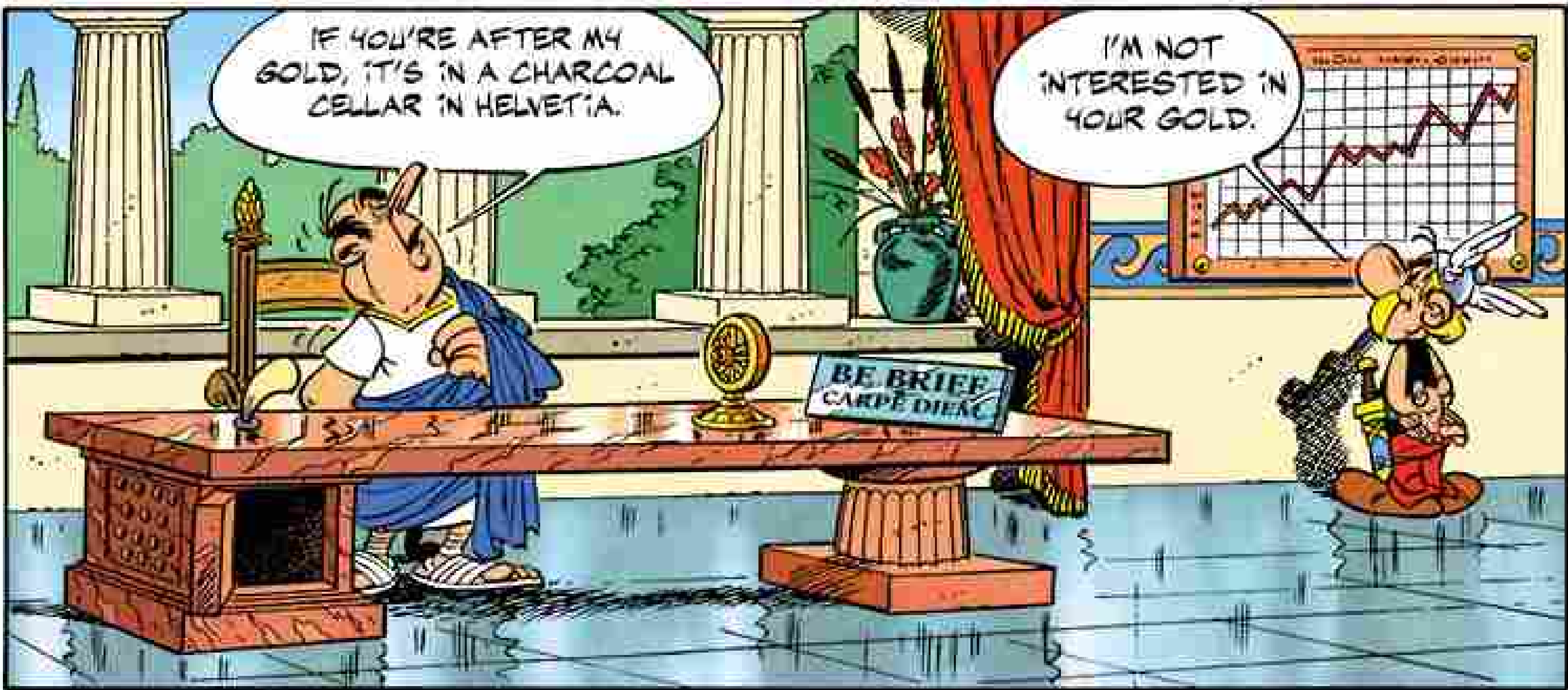
THAT'S OUR INTERCOM
SYSTEM... NOW, IF YOU'D
LIKE TO GO INTO THE
WAITING ATRIUM...

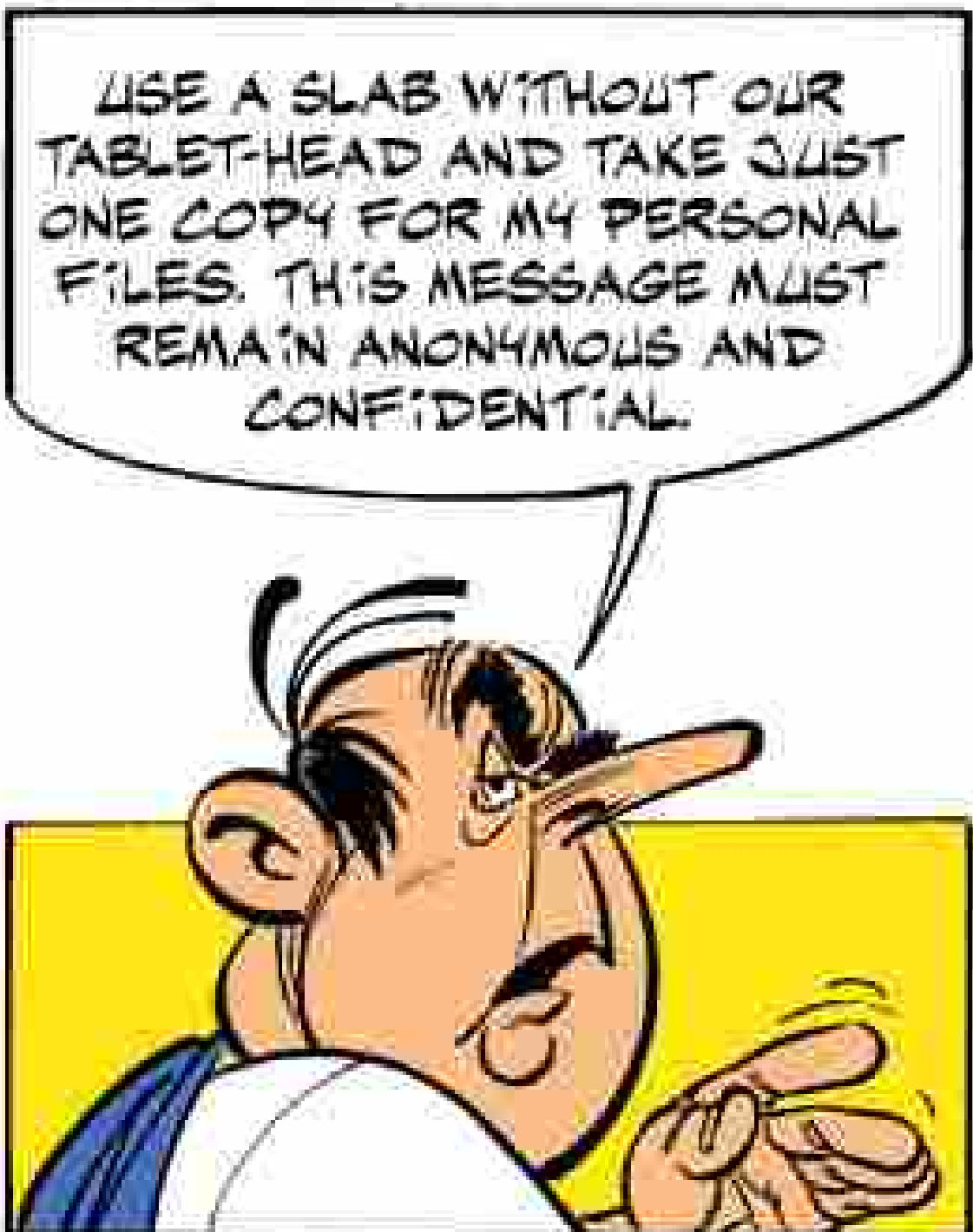
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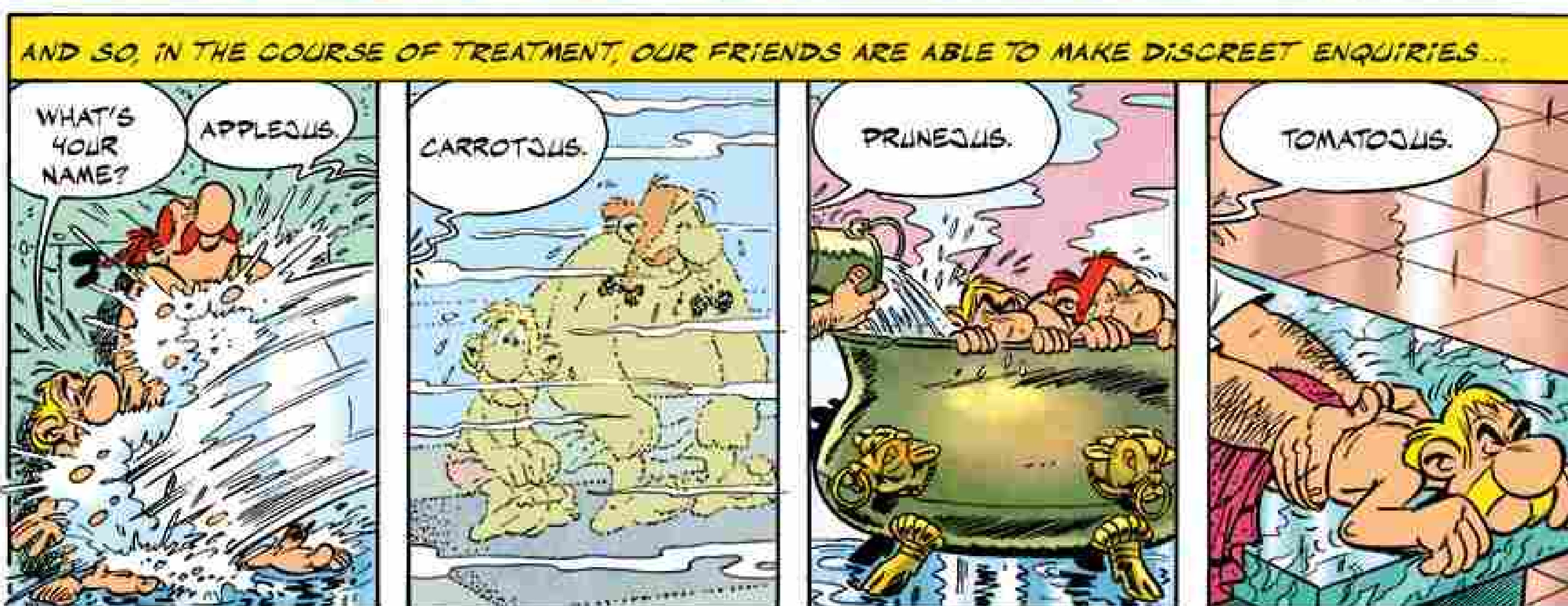
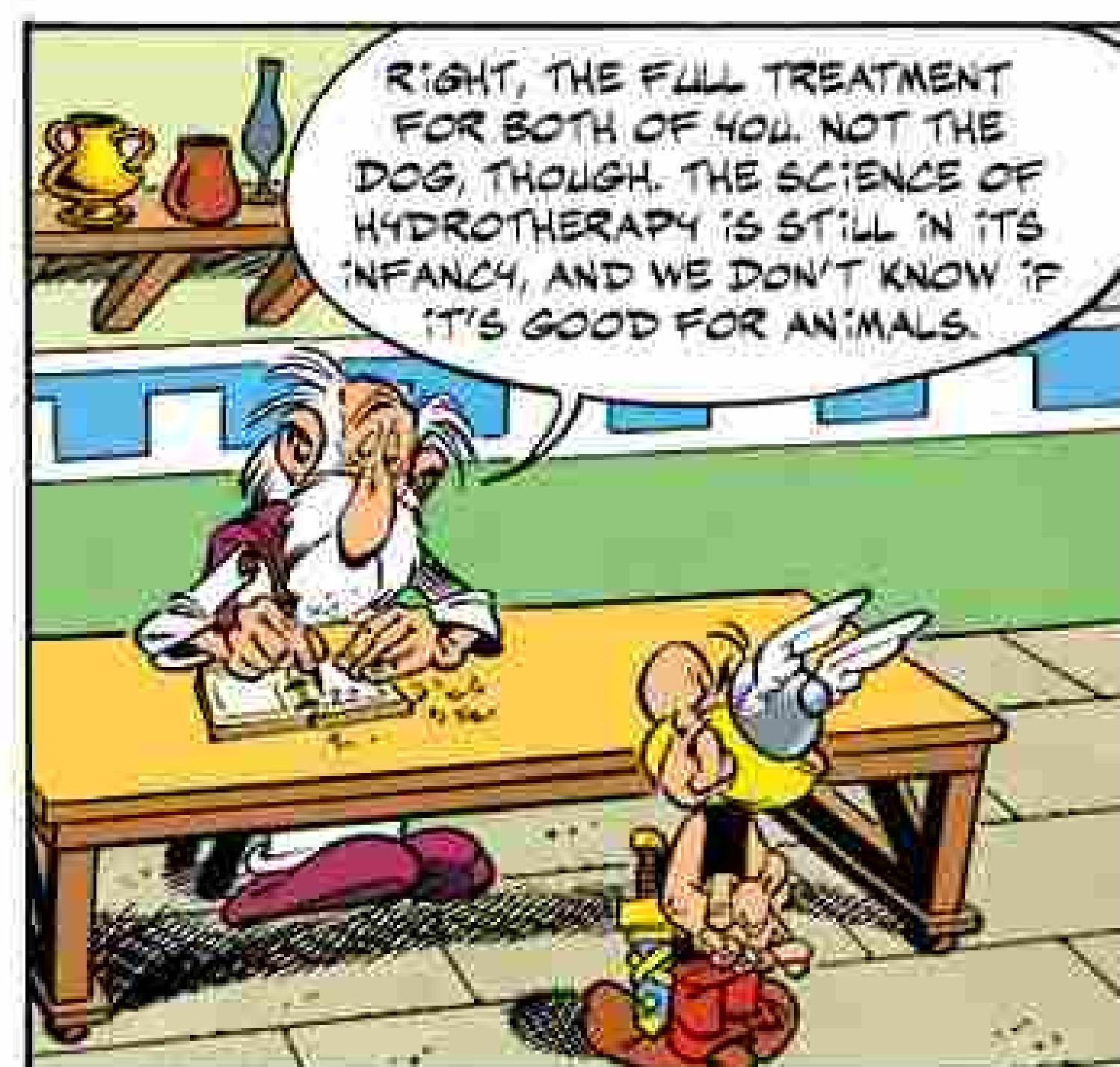


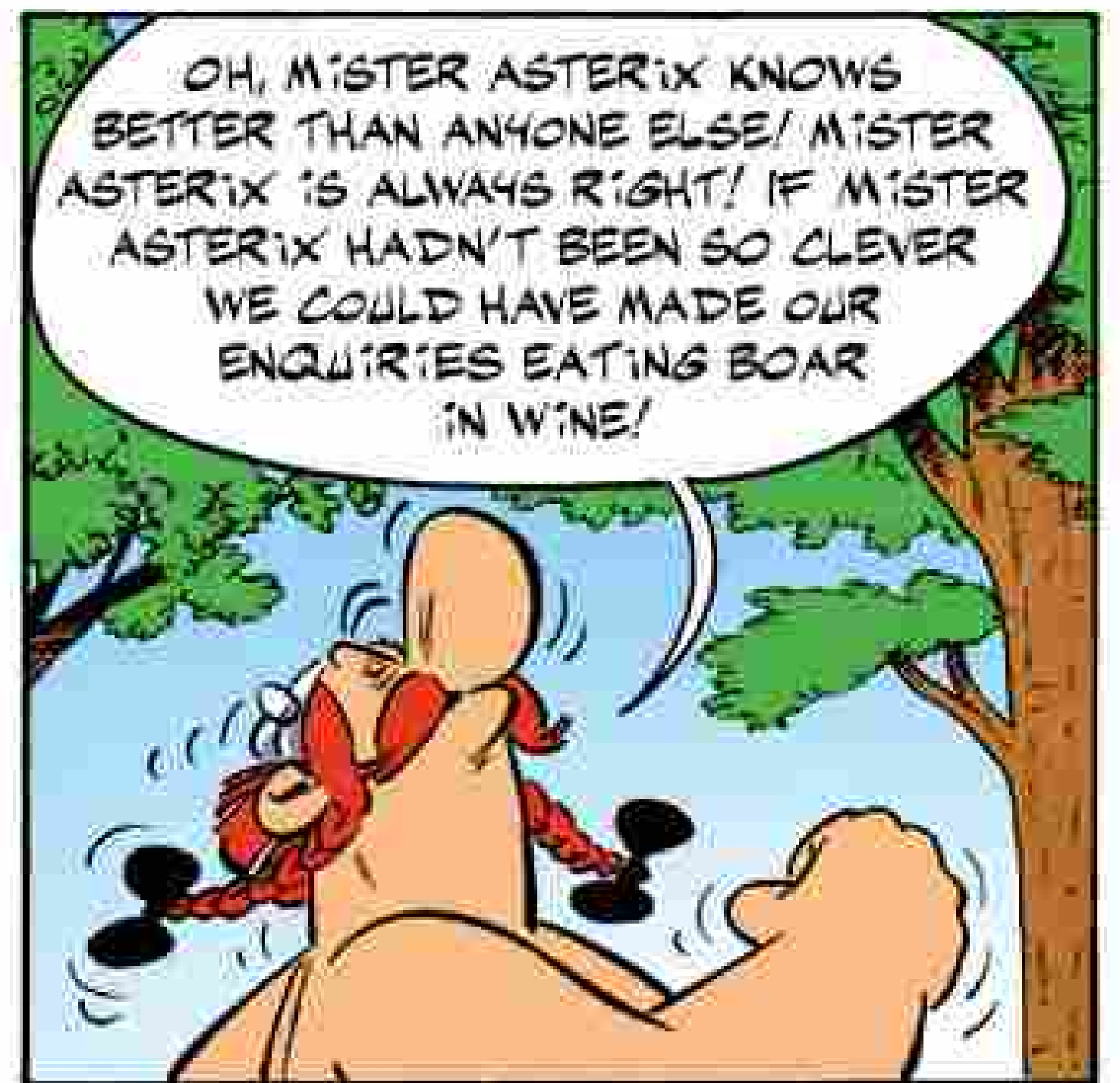
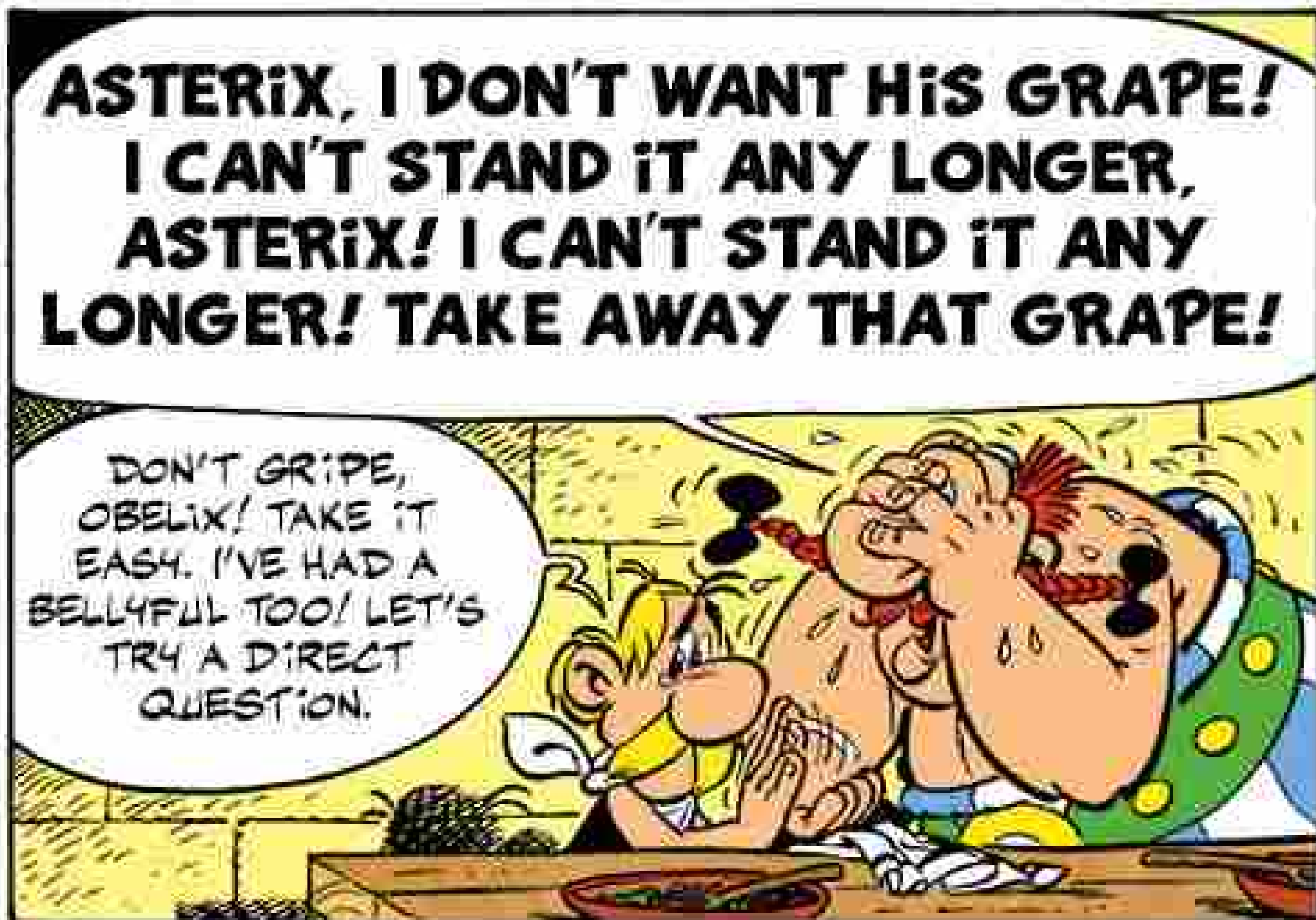


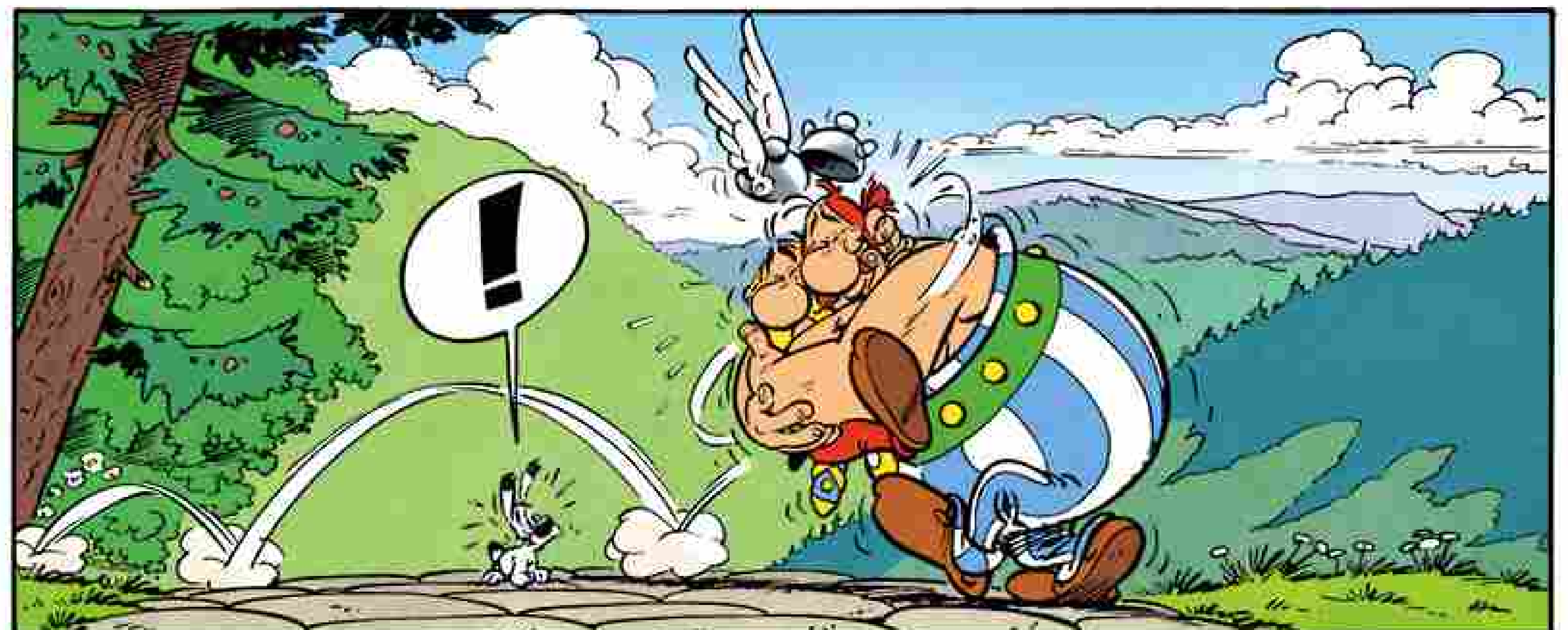


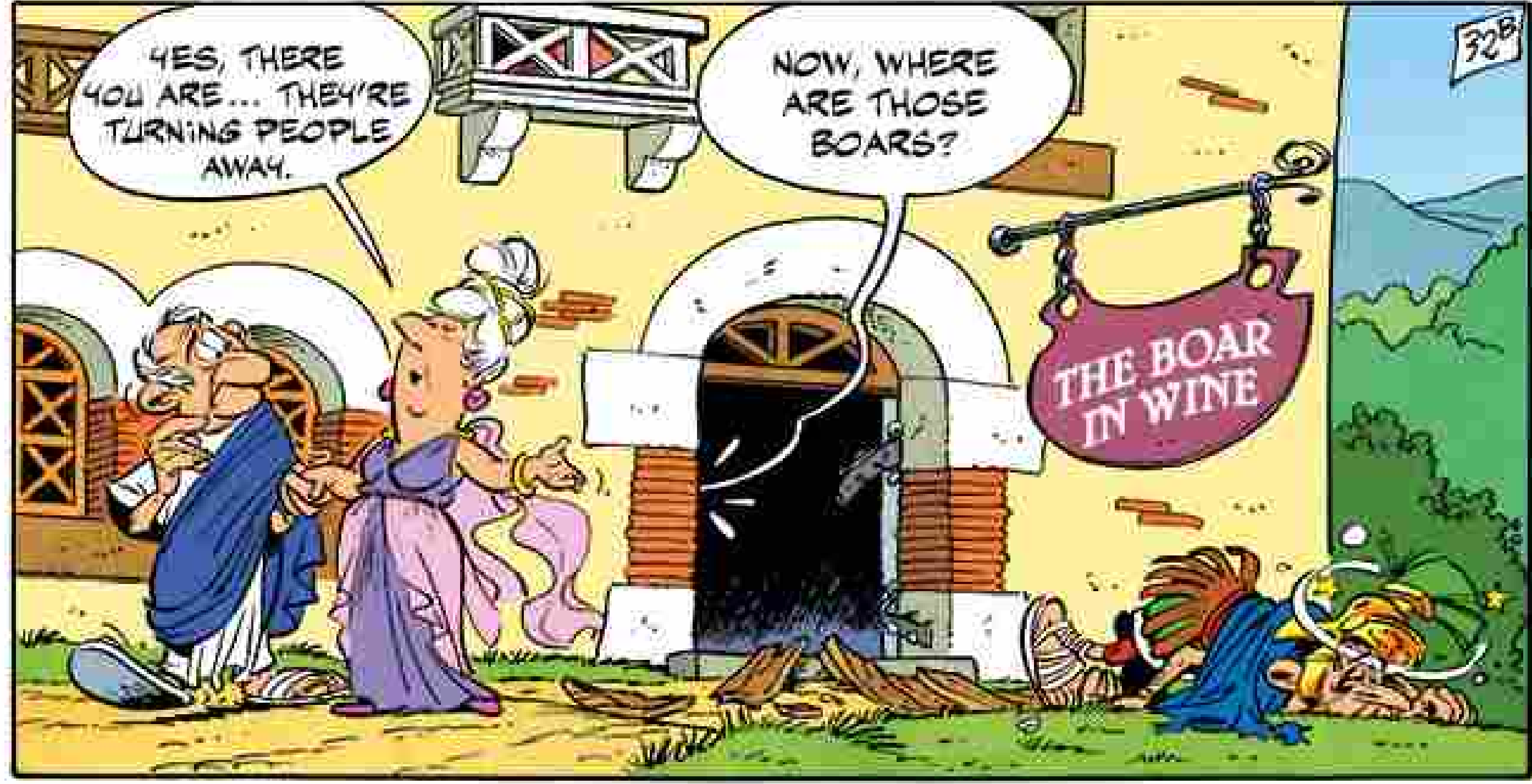
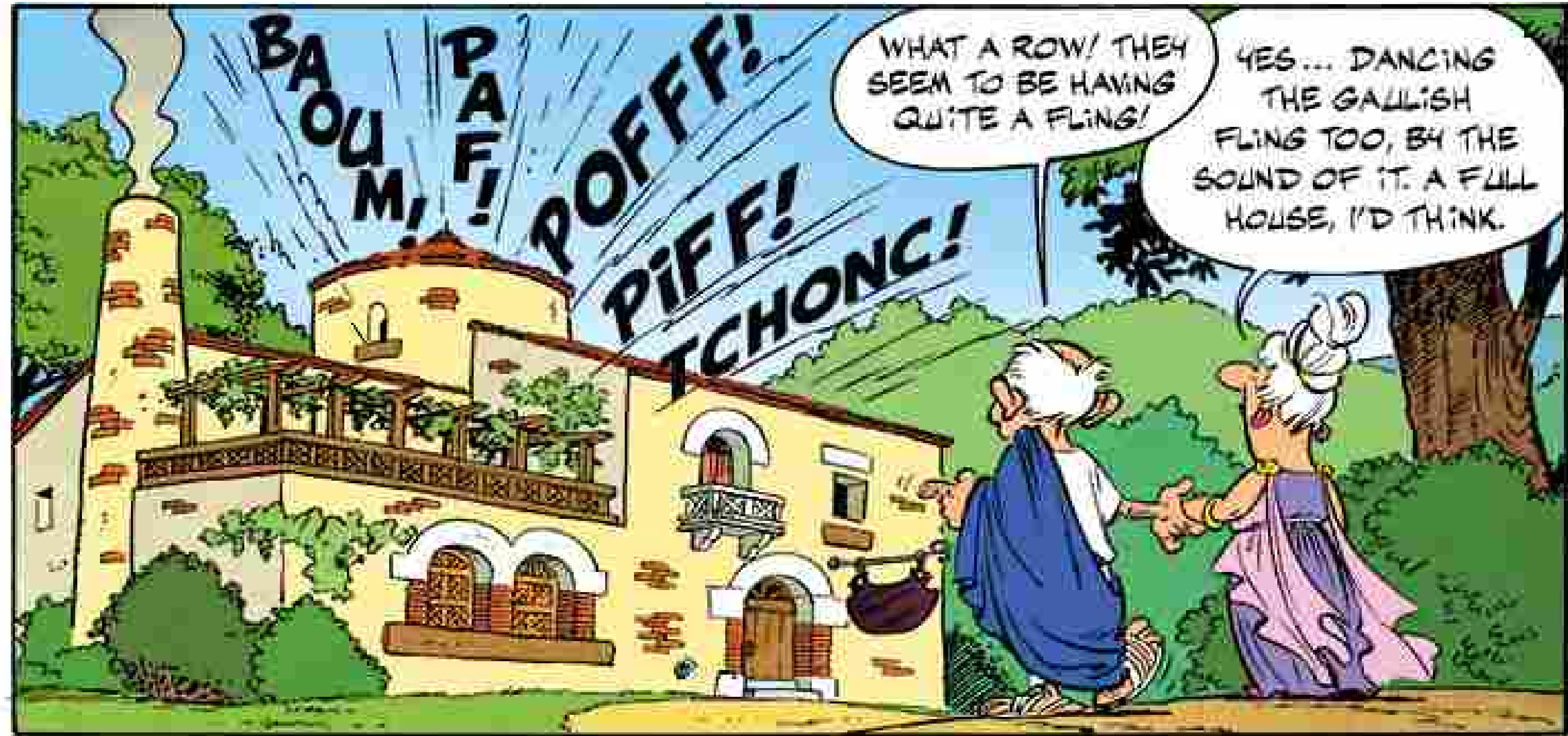
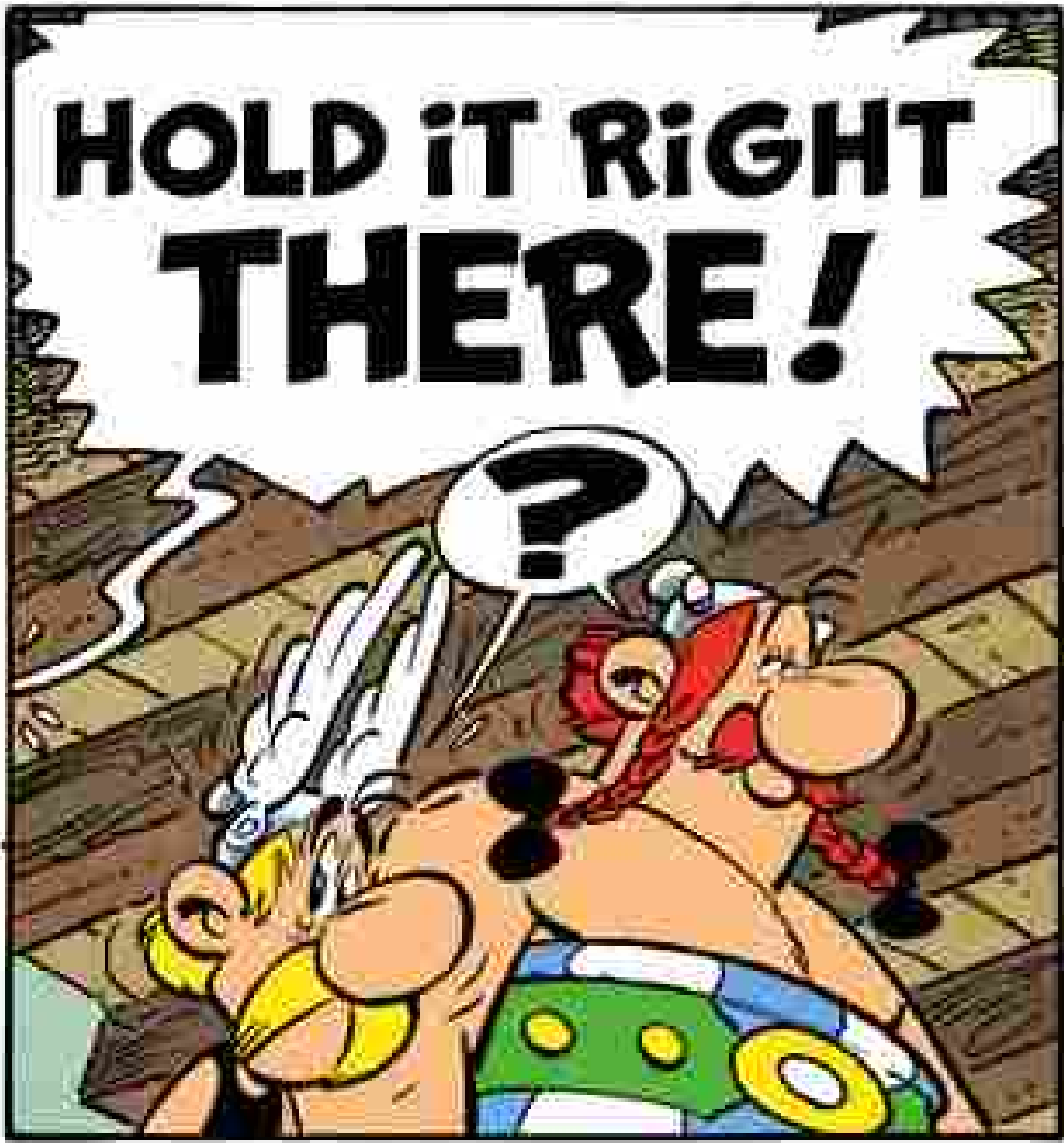
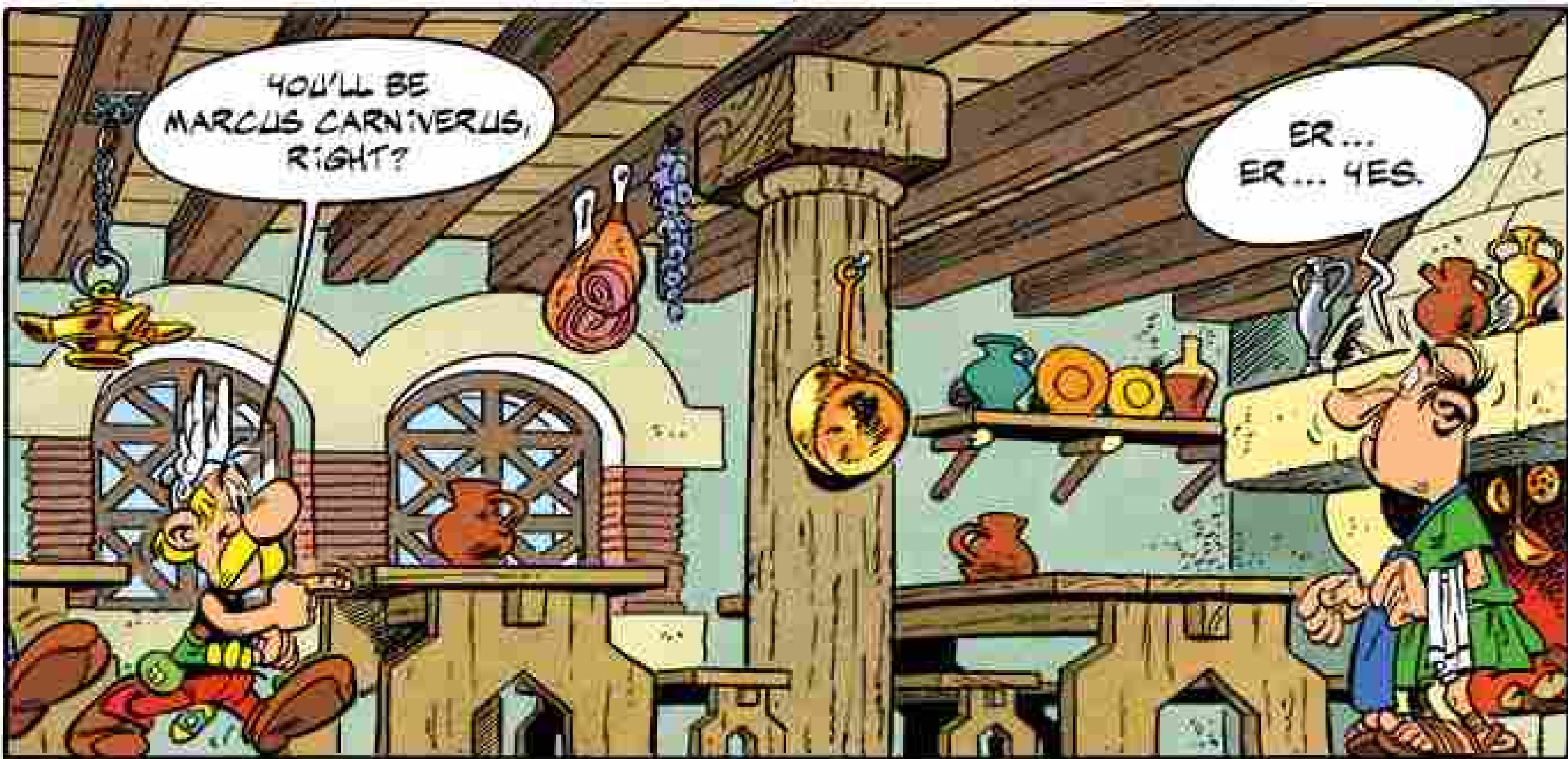


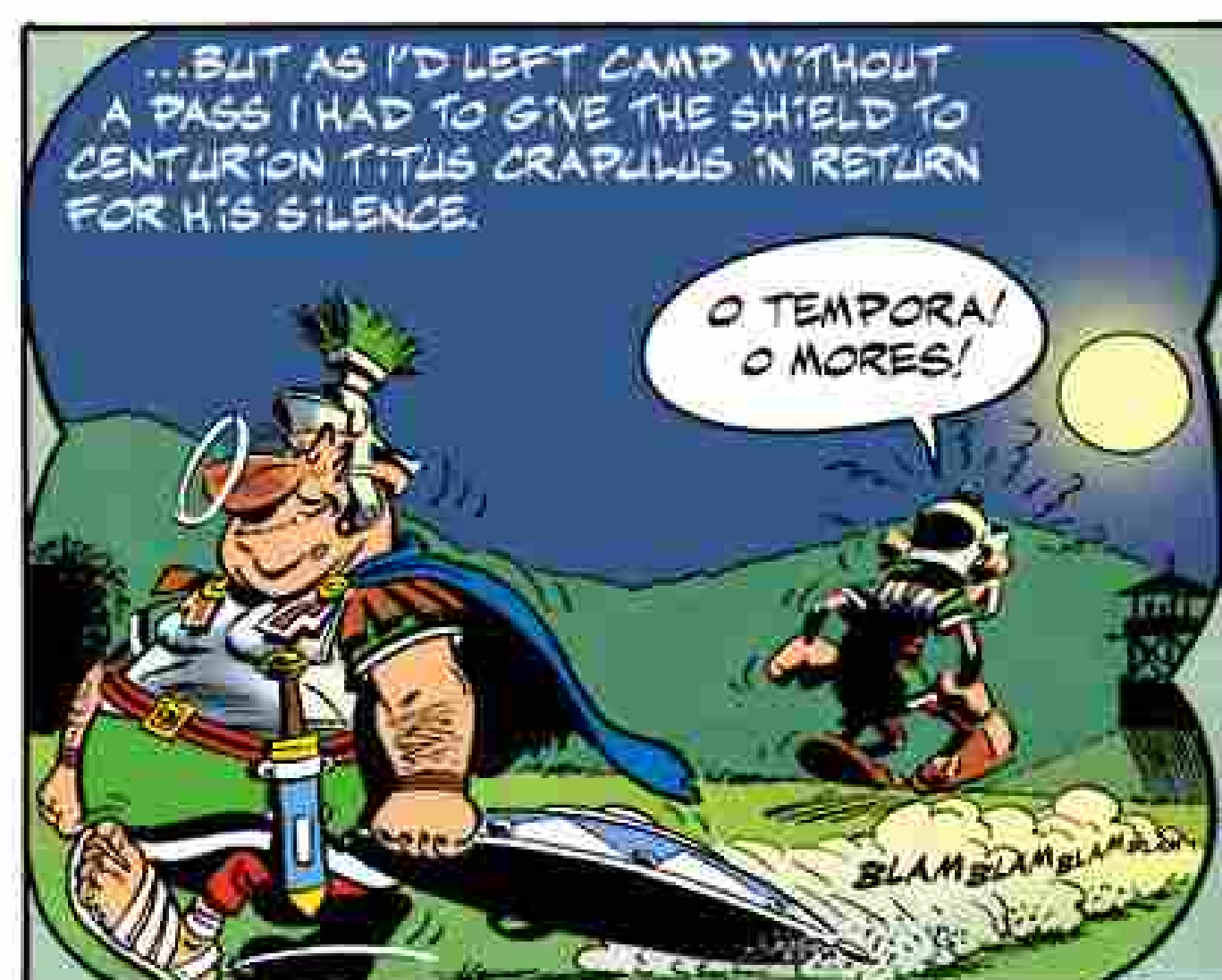


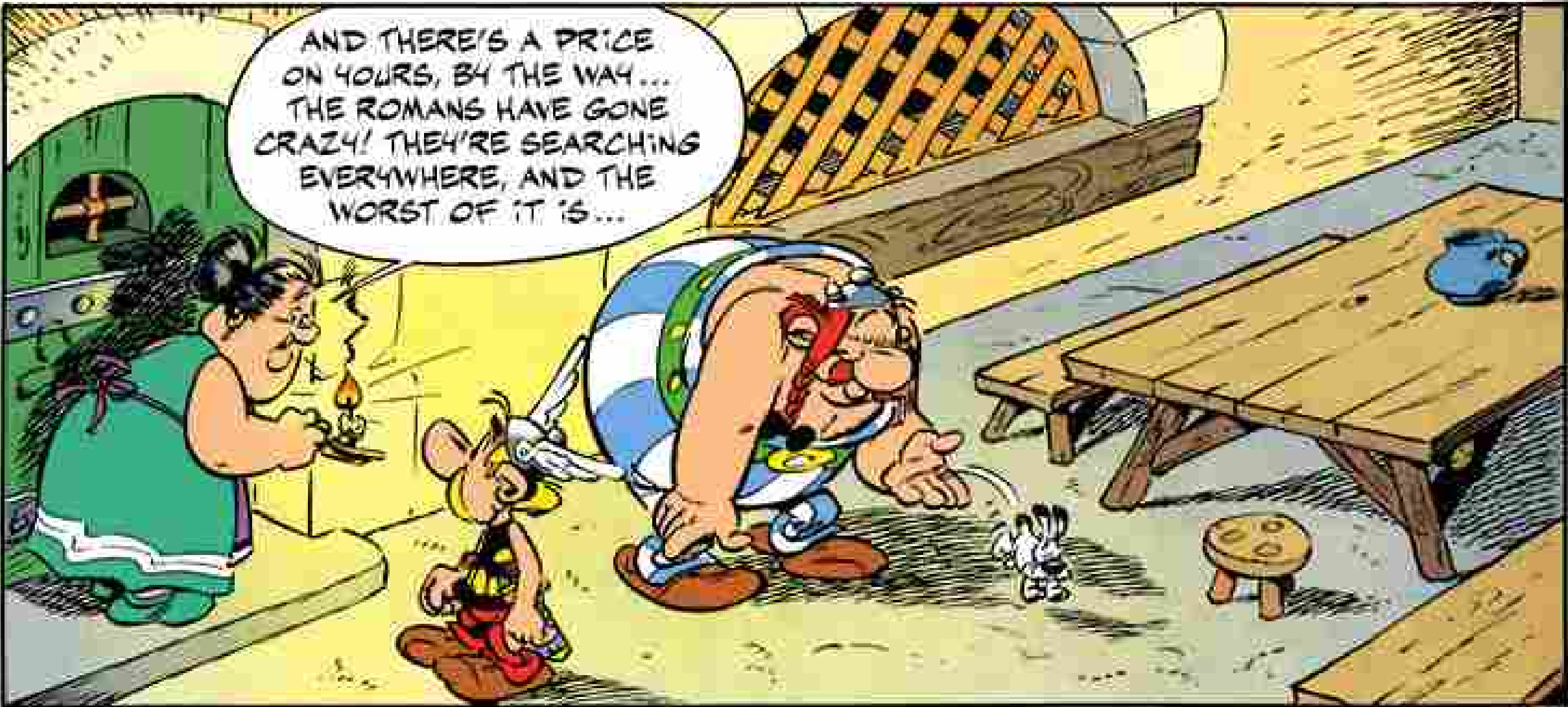


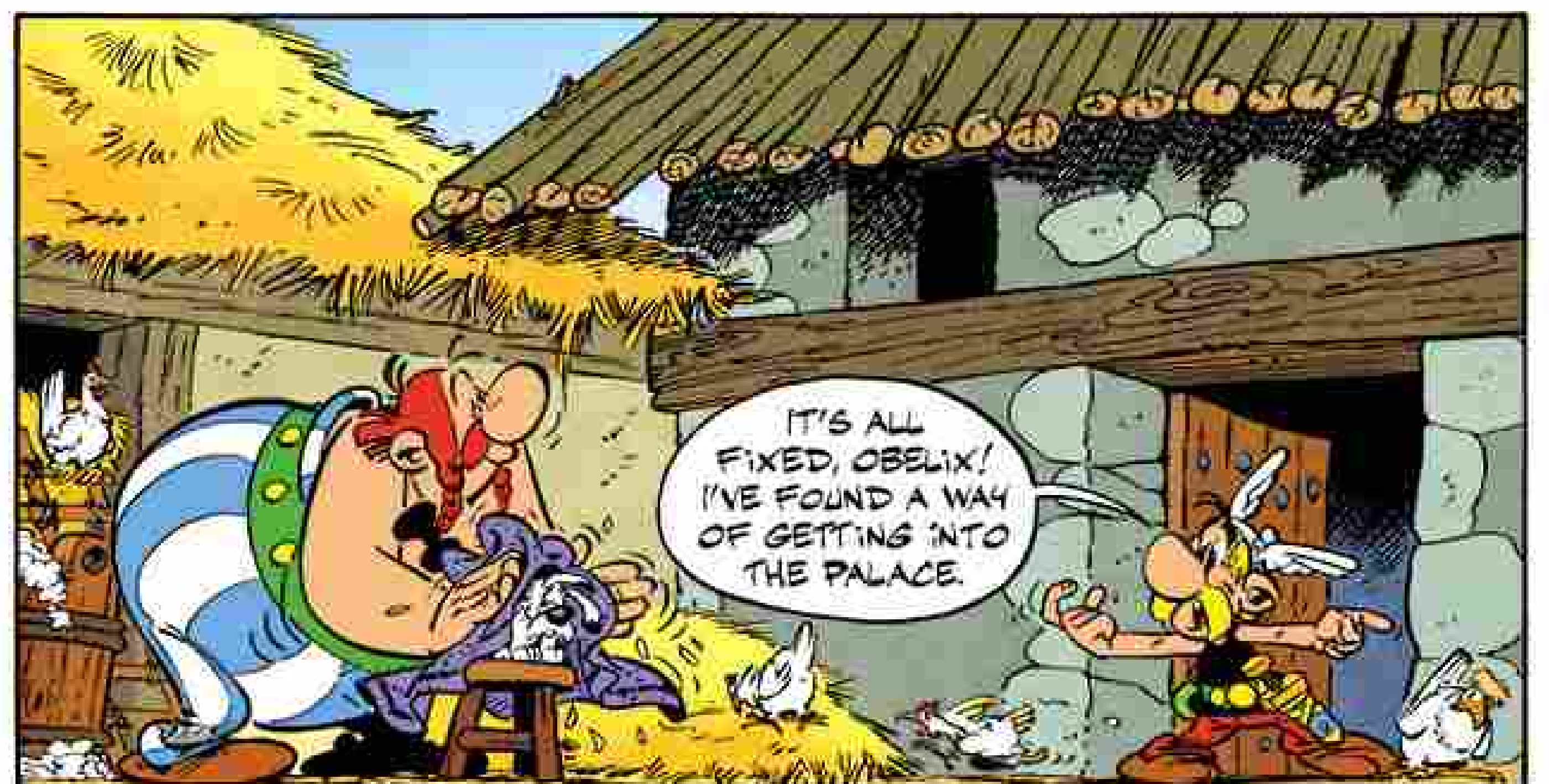
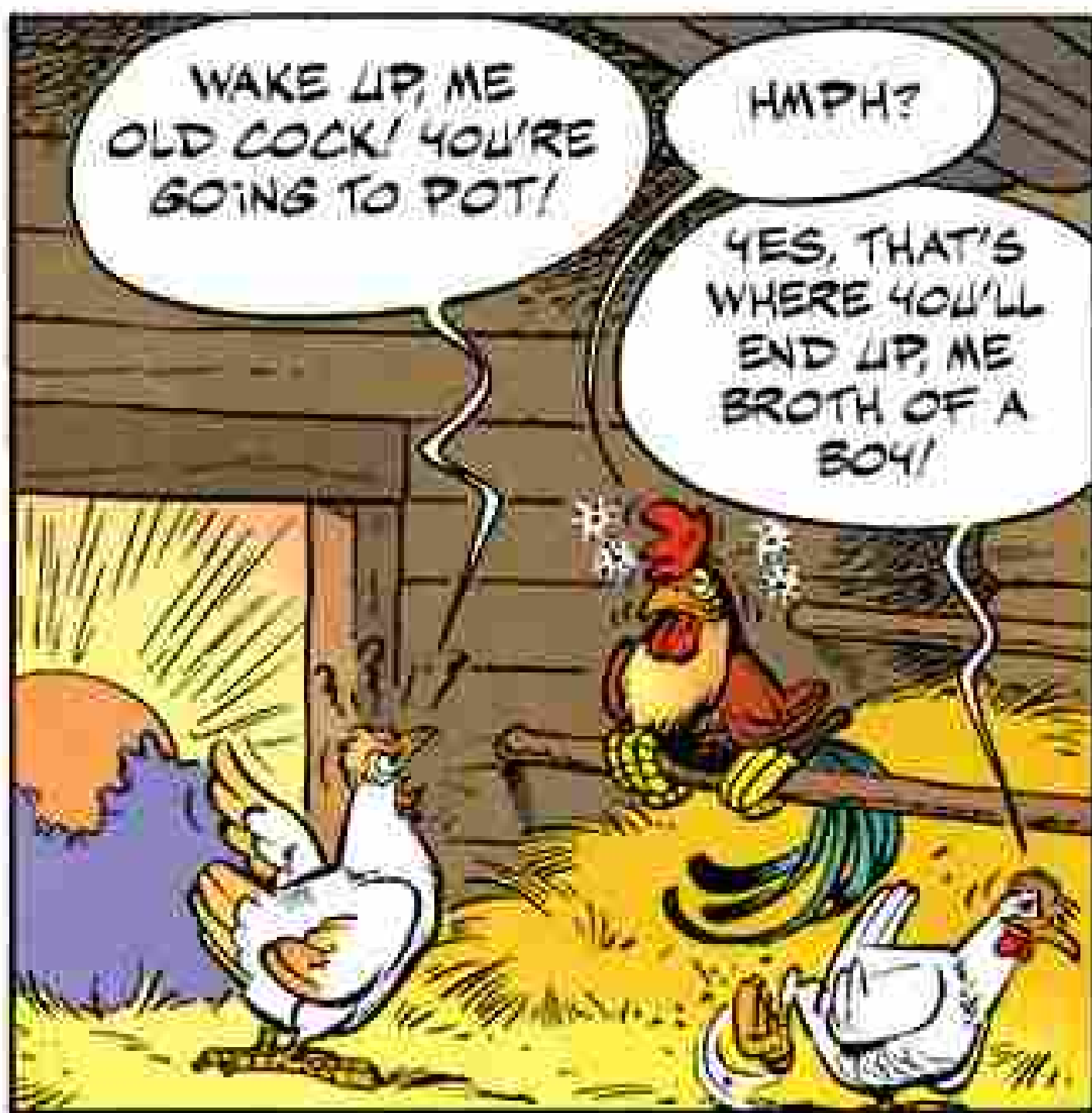


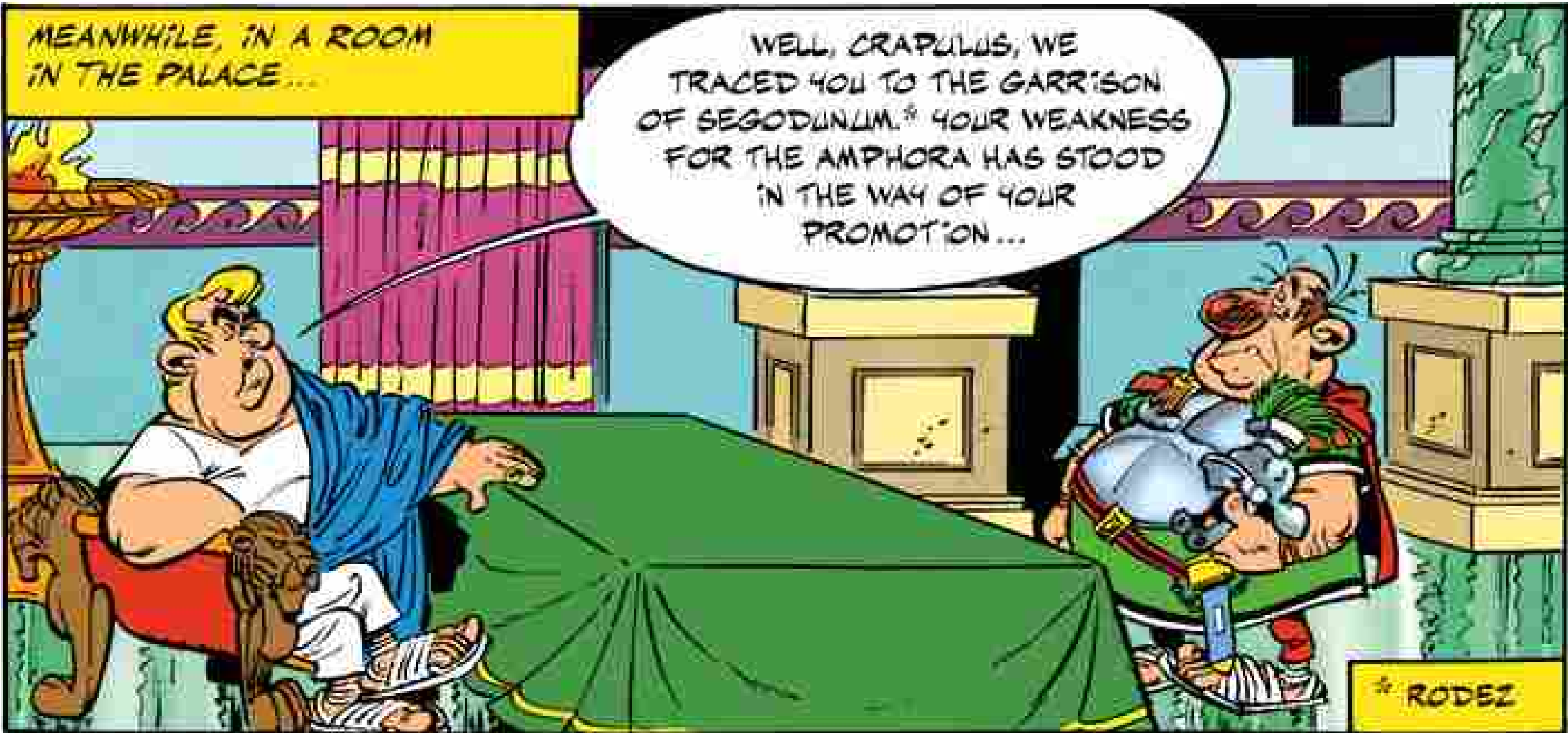
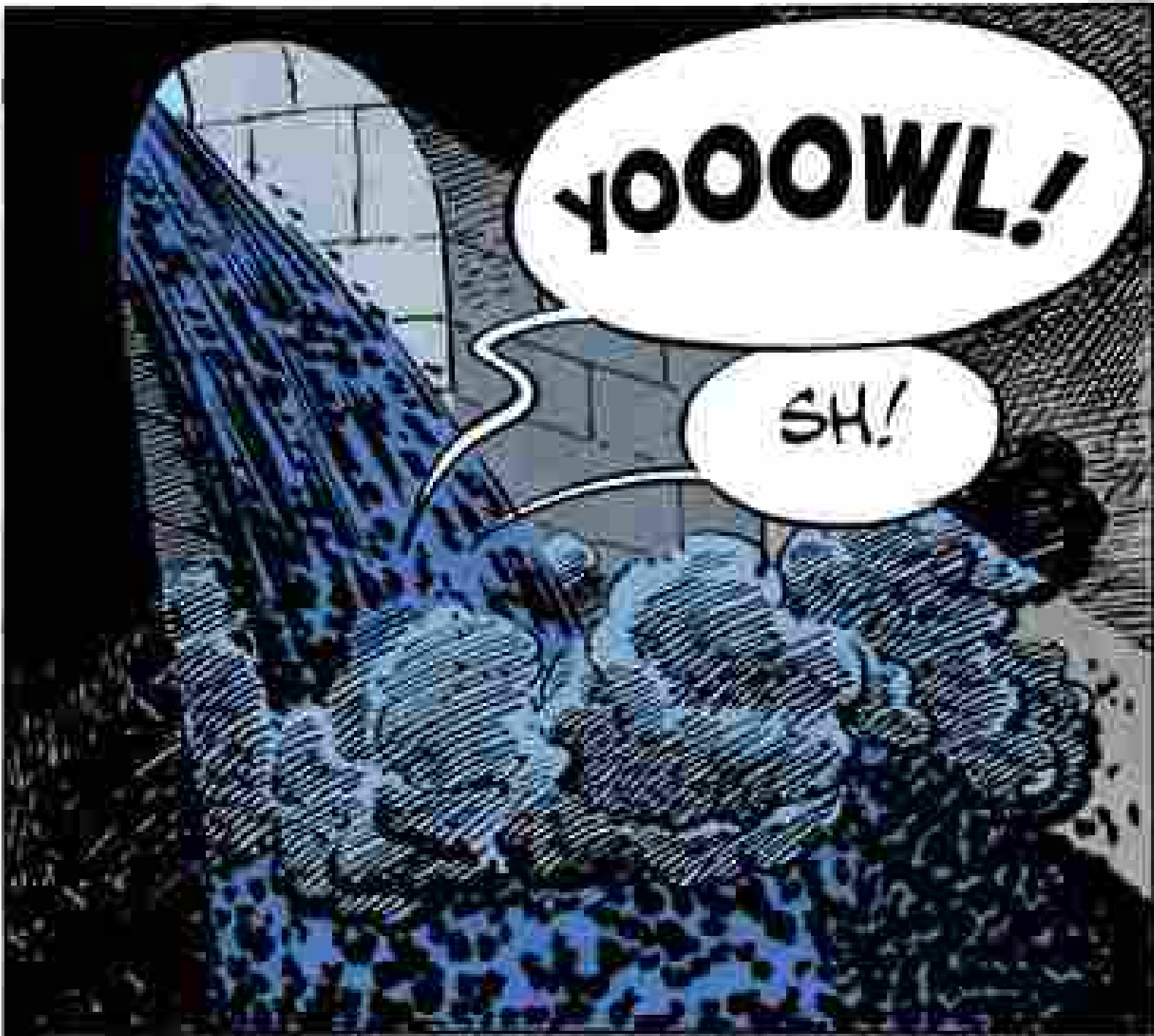
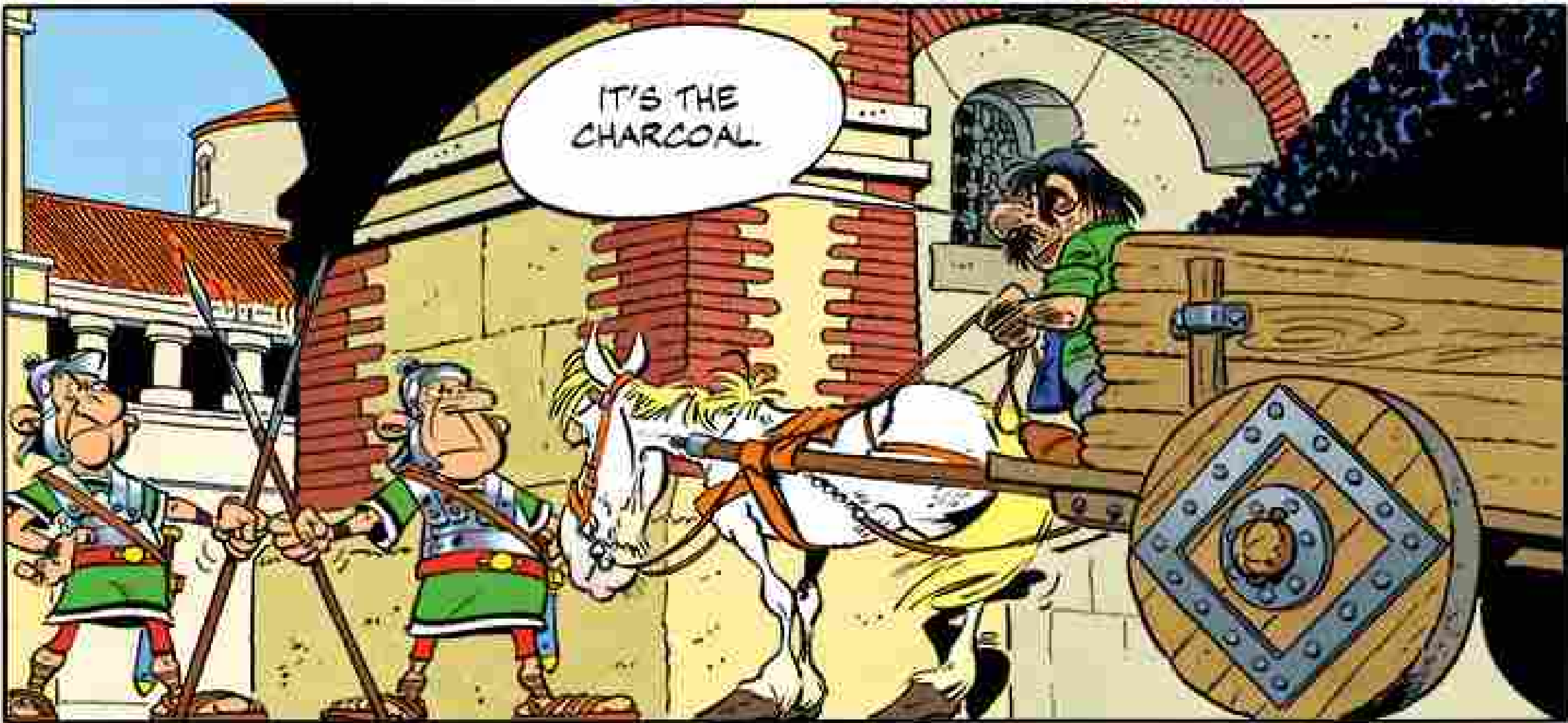














WH... **WHO ARE YOU????**



WE'RE LOOKING FOR **WINESANSPIRIX**.



WINESANSPIRIX!
THAT'S IT! THAT'S THE NAME
OF THE WINE MERCHANT
WHO HAD THE CHIEFTAIN'S
SHIELD FROM ME!

?!?

WINESANSPIRIX!
I WANT THIS
WINESANSPIRIX!

**NO, WE WANT
WINESANSPIRIX!**

WINESANSPIRIX!
YOOHOO!
WINESANSPIRIX!

**I WAS THE ONE
WHO REMEMBERED
THE NAME! DON'T
FORGET MY
PROMOTION!**



COME
ON, OBELIX.
WINESANSPIRIX
DOESN'T SEEM TO
BE 'N HERE. LET'S
GO AND LOOK FOR
HIM SOMEWHERE
ELSE.

ALL RIGHT,
ASTERIX.



OBELIX? ASTERIX? THEN
YOU'RE THE TWO GAULS
WHO ARE AFTER THE
CHIEFTAIN'S SHIELD...?



CALL OUT THE GUAR...

COMING,
OBELIX?

YES.



HEY, WHAT ABOUT
MY PROMOTION,
THEN?



THOSE MEN...
STOP THOSE
MEN!

LEAVE IT TO ME!
I'LL SEE TO IT! I'LL
FALL EVERYONE
'N!

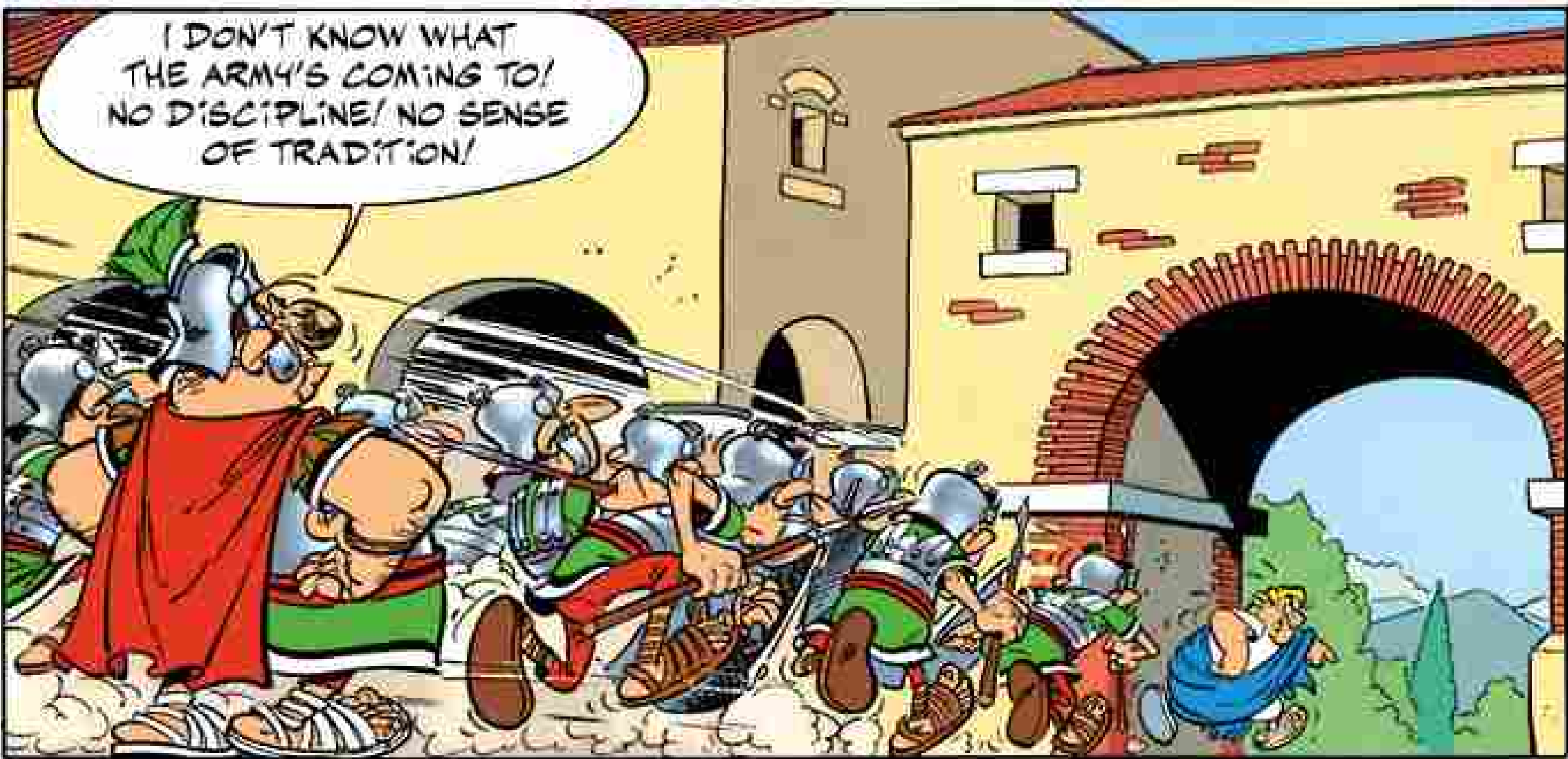


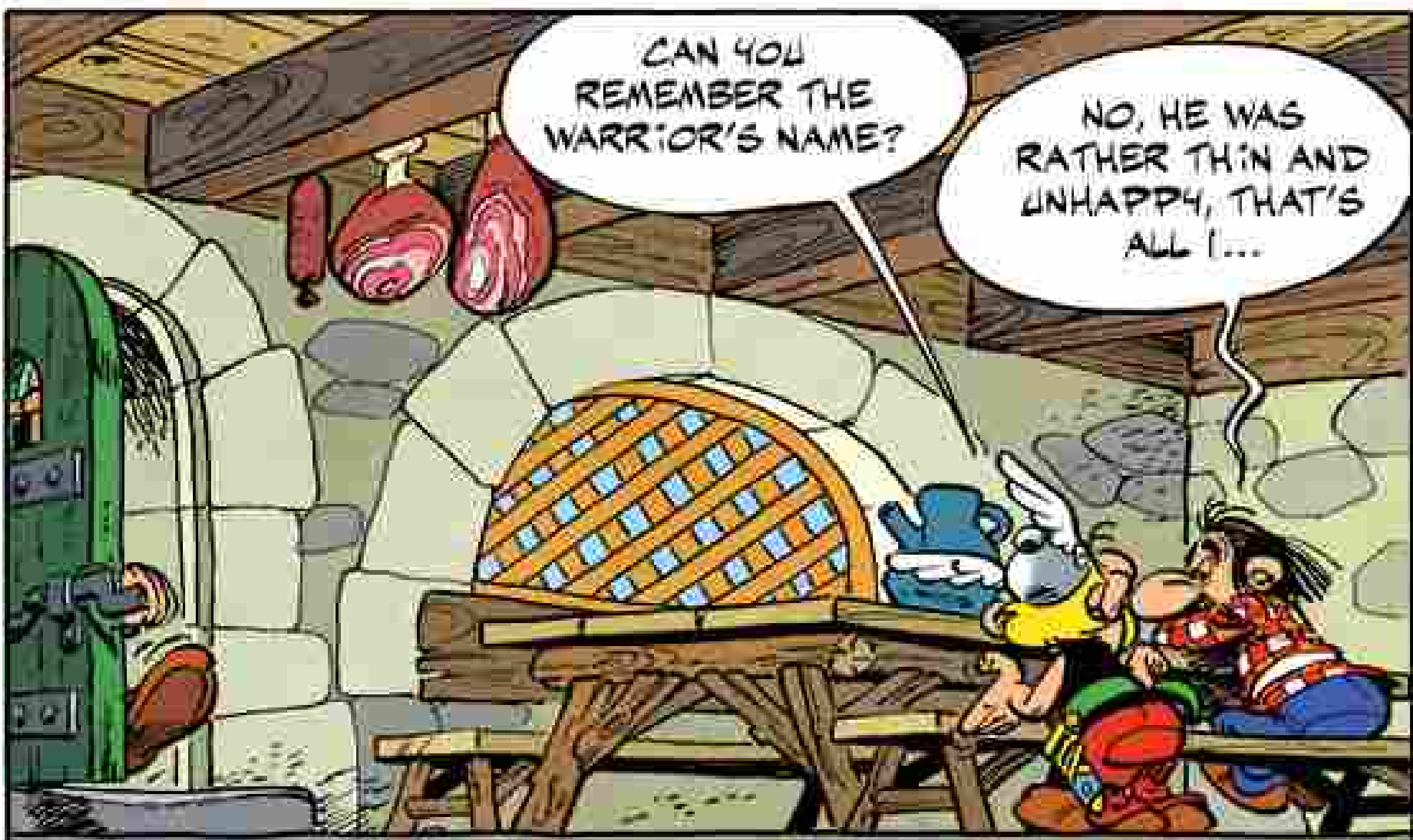
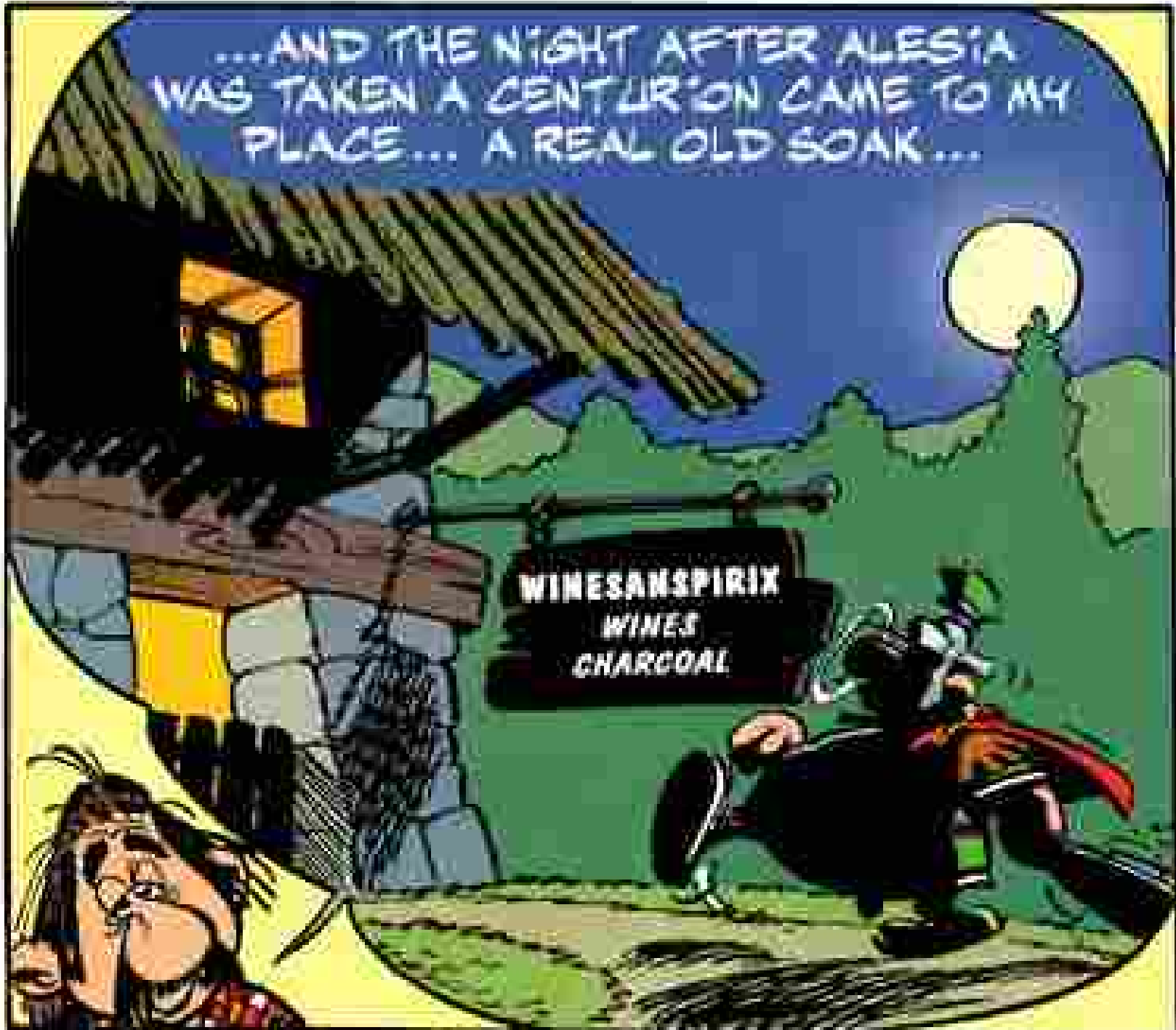
SURE ENOUGH,
CRAPULLUS DOES
SEE TO IT...

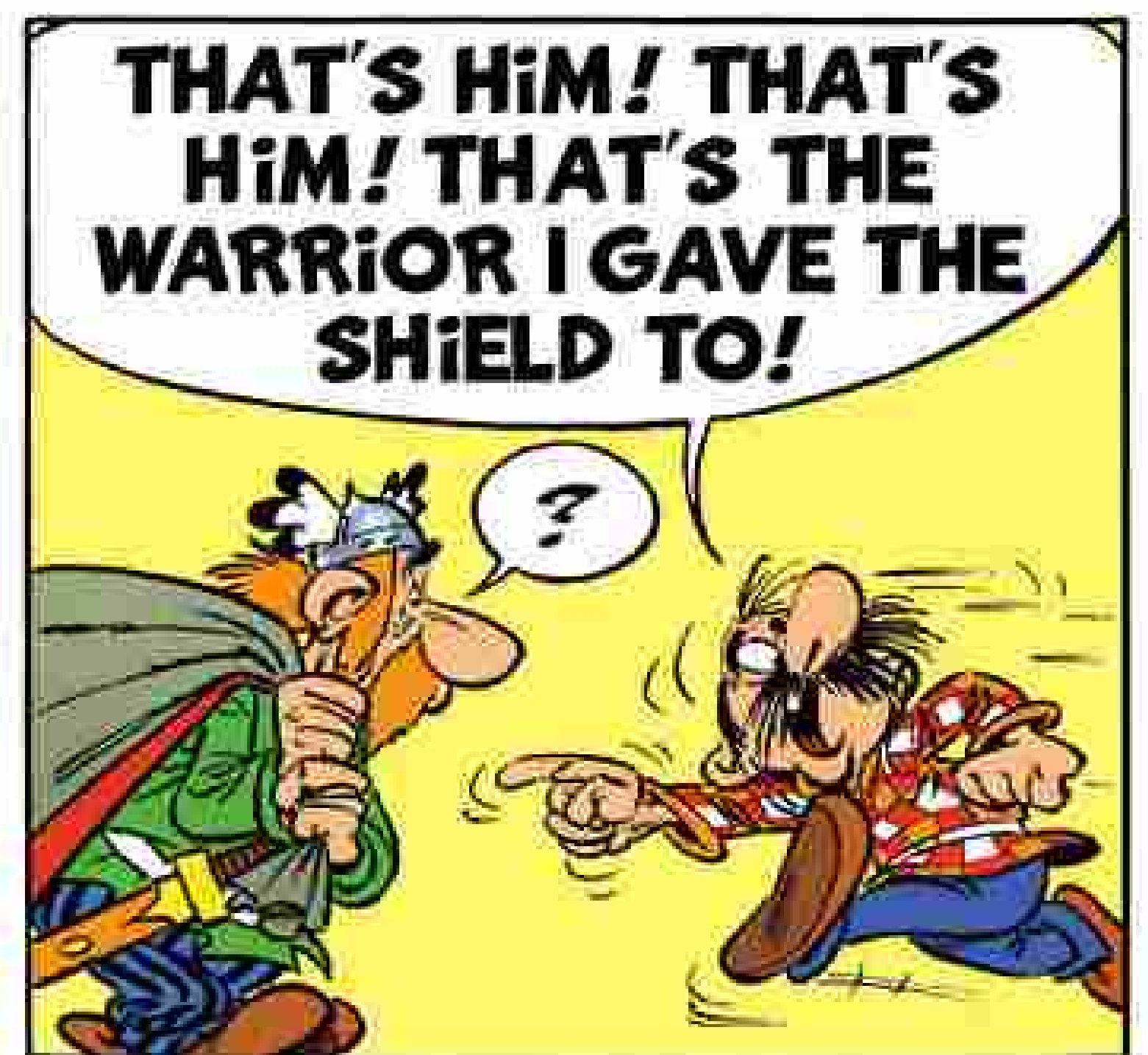
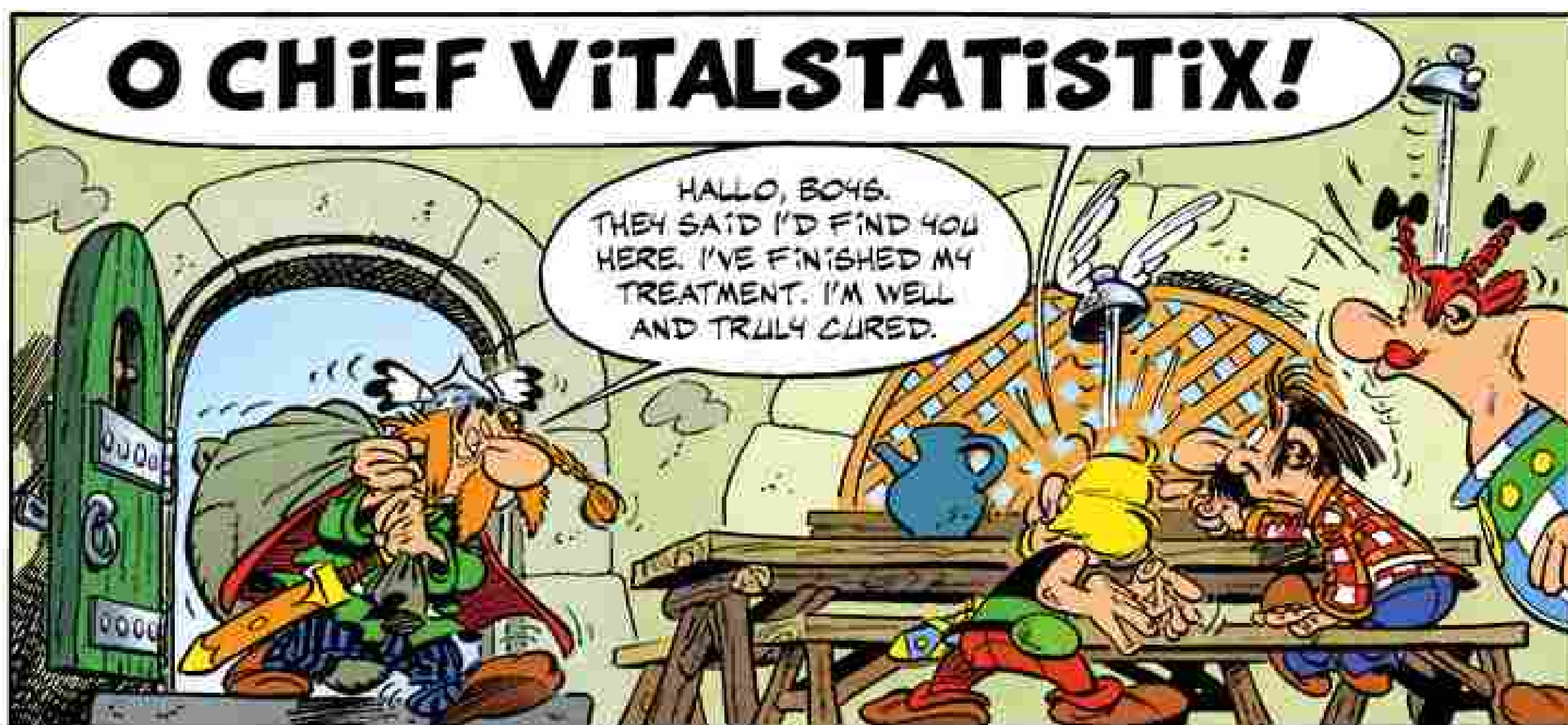
THAT'S FUNNY. THE
SENTRIES ARE LEAVING
THEIR POSTS...

THAT
SUITS US!

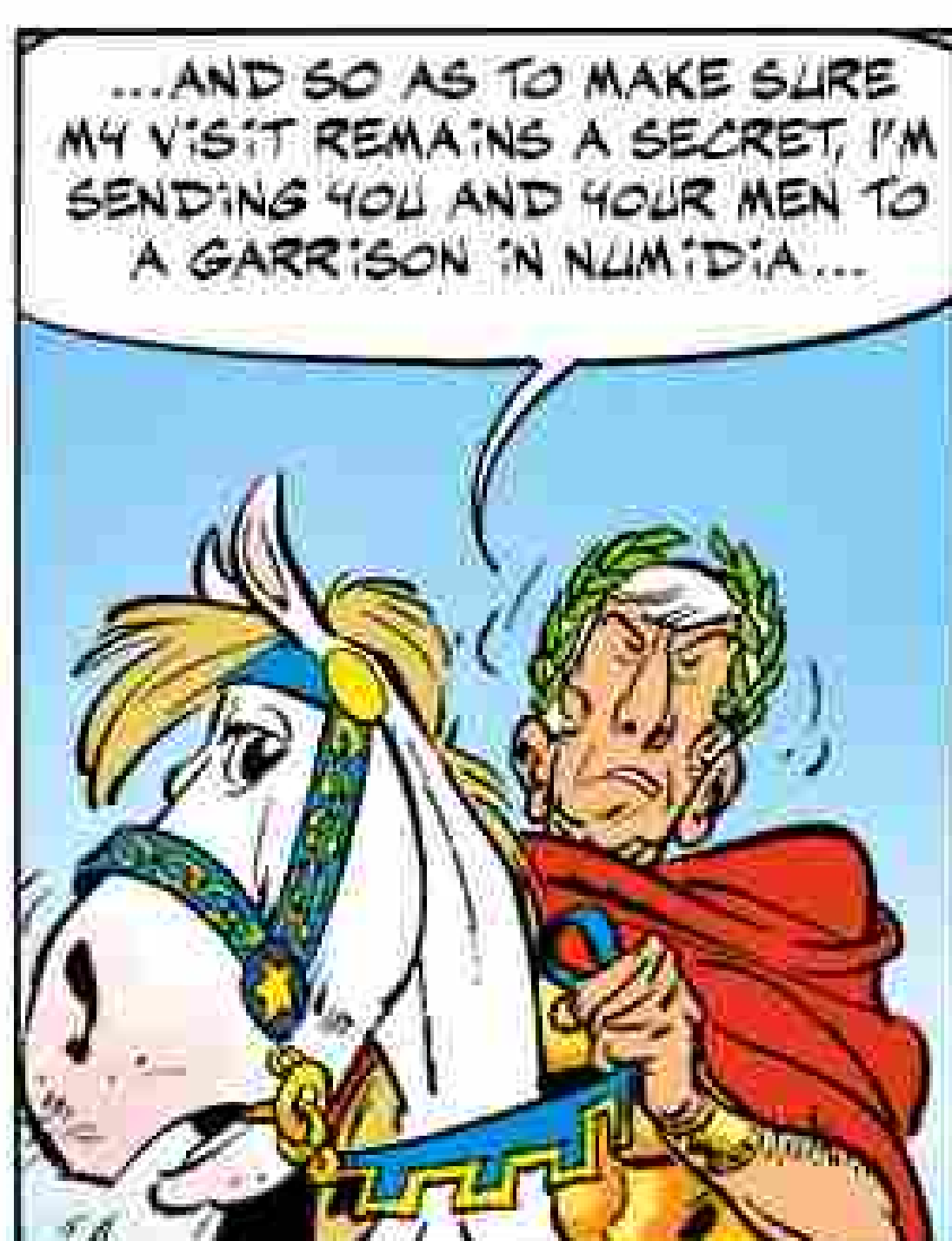












OUR FRIENDS ARE QUITE SORRY TO LEAVE GERGOVIA AFTER THEIR MEMORABLE TRIUMPH...



ON THE WAY HOME THE CHIEF'S STATISTICS ARE REVITALISED AS HE VISITS ALL THE INNS HE PATRONISED ON THE OUTWARD JOURNEY.



AND ONCE AGAIN OUR STORY ENDS WITH A BANQUET... EVERYONE IS THERE. EVERYONE? NO, SOMEONE IS MISSING... WHO CAN IT BE?



NOT HIM. HE'S THERE ALL RIGHT. SO WHO CAN IT BE, THEN?



...WHO?



BUT, IMPEDIMENTA, I HAVE TO SIT AT THE HEAD OF THE TABLE! I HAVE TO GO! I'M CURED, MY LOVE...
IMPEDIMENTA! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HIT ME OVER THE HEAD WITH THAT SHIELD, ARE YOU?!?

THE END





I FEEL
A BIT WEAK,
GETAFIX ...

NO, OBELIX! YOU
ARE NOT HAVING ANY MAGIC
POTION! YOU KNOW VERY WELL
YOU FELL INTO THE CAULDRON
WHEN YOU WERE A BABY, AND
IT HAD A PERMANENT
EFFECT ON YOU!

When
the hero
Vercingetorix
was defeated he
threw his arms at
Julius Caesar's feet.
Years later, Caesar
plans to hold a triumph
with his enemy's shield
— but where is it?
Romans and Gauls race
to track it down, and
Chief Vitalstatistix, dieting
on a health farm, has a
surprise to spring. Will
Caesar defeat the Gauls
again, or will the triumph
go to Asterix?

